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RECENT IMMIGRANTS IN METROPOLITAN AREAS

STRATEGIC RESEARCH AND REVIEW
RECHERCHE ET EXAMEN STRATÉGIQUES

Recent Immigrants in the Victoria Metropolitan Area

A Comparative Portrait Based on the 1996 Census

September 2000

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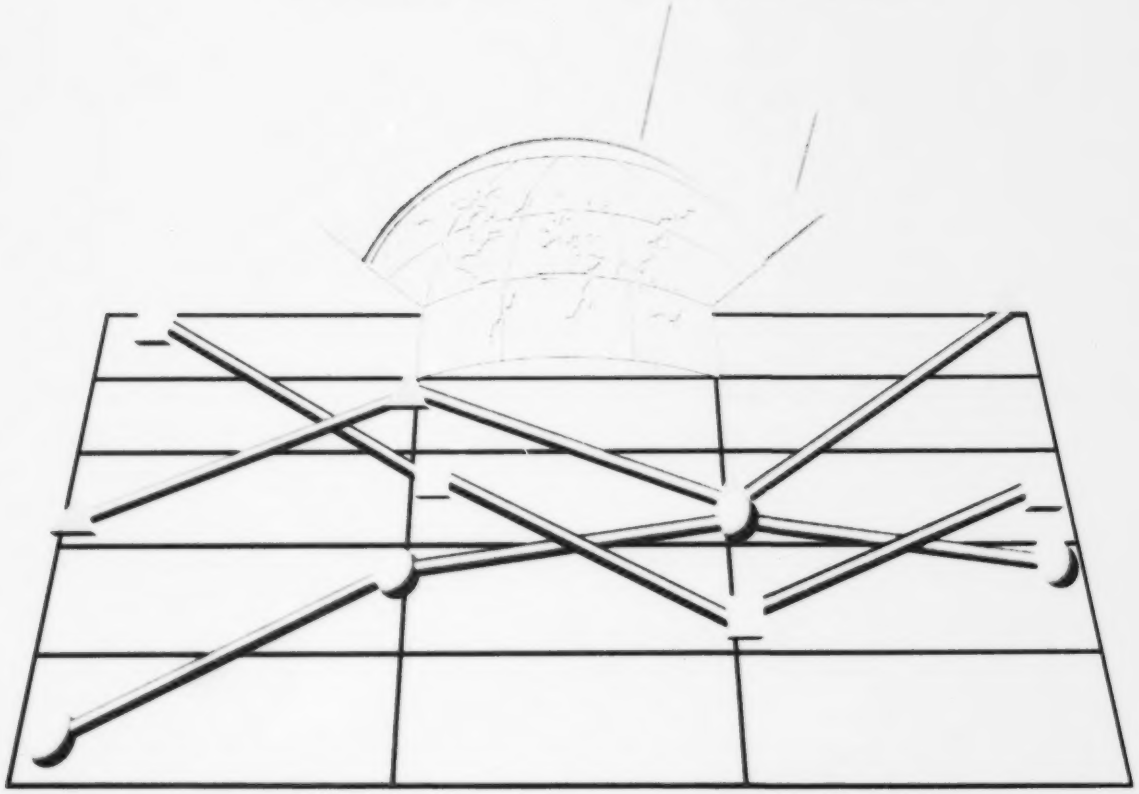

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RECENT IMMIGRANTS IN THE VICTORIA METROPOLITAN AREA

A COMPARATIVE PORTRAIT BASED ON THE 1996 CENSUS

Prepared by
INFORMETRICA LIMITED

For
Citizenship and Immigration Canada

September 2000

The opinions and interpretations expressed herein are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of Citizenship and Immigration Canada

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FOREWORD

This document presents a portrait of recent immigrants – persons who immigrated ("landed") after 1980 - living in the Victoria area at the time of the 1996 census of population. It provides information, derived from the census, on the origin and background of immigrants, on family and household structure, on participation in the economy, on income and housing.

To assist the reader in interpreting the characteristics and circumstances of recent immigrants, comparisons are made throughout this document with earlier immigrants - those who arrived before 1981 - and with persons born in Canada. As well, recent immigrants have been subdivided into two groups: those who arrived in the 1980s and those who arrived in the first half of the nineties. The last group is variously called "most recent immigrants" or "very recent immigrants". Grouping immigrants by period of landing is helpful when considering the adjustment of new immigrants to Canadian society and the economy, which takes time.

Canada's immigration policy has various objectives: meeting labour market needs, family reunification, humanitarian goals. Policies have changed over time, and so has the background of new immigrants. As the categories through which immigrants are admitted are not identified in the census, this report does not relate the experience of immigrants to their immigration category. However, Canada's immigration policies, along with conditions in countries of origin and in Canada, have an impact on the background and circumstances of recent immigrants as documented in this report.

The report also presents data on earlier immigrants. This is intended not so much as a second portrait, but rather as an indication of the likely future circumstances of recent immigrants. There is no guarantee, of course, that recent immigrants will assume the same place in Canada's society and economy as have earlier generations of immigrants. There have been changes in the characteristics of immigrants over time. The Canadian population, society and economy have evolved as well. This portrait, however, indicates there is also a good deal of continuity in the characteristics of immigrants, and it shows that recent immigrants are making a place for themselves in this country. There are strong indications that the relative economic conditions of recent immigrants will improve with time after their arrival in Canada, for instance.

This portrait of recent immigrants living in the Victoria area is one of a series of 13 portraits for major urban centres where the overwhelming majority of recent immigrants live. Each of the 13 profiles highlights a census metropolitan area (CMA; for a definition see the second text box on the next page). The CMAs or major urban agglomerations are: Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal, Victoria, Edmonton, Calgary, Saskatoon, Regina, Winnipeg, Hamilton, Ottawa, Quebec City and Halifax. Also available is a profile of recent immigrants in Canada. This profile covers the same material as the profiles for urban centres. It also provides comparisons between five geographic areas (Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal, the ten other cities combined, and the rest of Canada).

This comparative portrait of recent immigrants in Victoria was produced by Informetrica Limited and is published by Citizenship and Immigration Canada to inform the Canadian public, in particular persons and organisations with an interest in immigrants, including officials of provincial, regional and local governments, and organisations providing services to immigrants.

In this document, text boxes provide information of a technical nature about the topics covered, such as definitions of concepts used and notes to tables and charts. Here are some general points that may assist the reader:

Highlights are presented before the main report. The Highlights section is divided into six parts like the report itself.

Headings of topics summarise the thrust of the information presented, in telegram style. Thus, a quick impression of the characteristics and circumstances of recent immigrants can be gleaned from the table of contents. In the style used in the headings, all comparative statements refer to recent immigrants and the Canadian-born. Thus, "Fewer children among recent immigrants" means that children under 15 years of age make up a smaller proportion of recent immigrants than of the Canadian-born.

The text describes and comments on the data displayed in figures and tables. The text does not always quote the precise numbers in the tables, but states them in an approximate or rounded manner. For instance, "41%" may be described as "two-fifths" or "two out of five". As well, whereas tables and figures display information for two groups - immigrants who landed in the 1980s and those who landed during 1991-1996 - the text often refers to these jointly as "recent immigrants".

Numbers of people are rounded to the nearest 10 or 100, and as a rule no decimals are shown for percentages. Shares may not add to 100 per cent because of rounding.

Some tables and figures in this profile show less detail than available in other reports in this series of profiles, reports for urban areas where a larger number of recent immigrants live than in Victoria. This was necessary to ensure that the statistics shown are accurate and not misleading. Statistics Canada does not release the actual number of persons in any category in the census data, but an approximate number. When there are but few people in a category, there may be a large relative error in the number. Thus, when the number of recent immigrants in a particular category is small, it is impossible to know whether a difference between recent immigrants and the Canadian-born reflects a real difference or the approximation error. These reports on recent immigrants do not provide such statistics.

Thus, no analysis of unemployment and knowledge of official languages is presented in this profile. In some displays detail is provided only for all recent immigrants, and not separately for immigrants who landed in the 1980s and those who landed during the 1990s. In other instances certain age groups are combined. Finally, some individuals statistics have been excluded and replaced by the designation "n.a.", meaning "not available".

Readers should be aware that there may be many reasons behind the differences featured in any display in this document: the background of immigrants, the experience of immigration, Canada's immigration policy, etc. One important source of difference is age structure. There are more adults aged 25 to 44 and fewer children among recent immigrants than the Canadian-born, and earlier immigrants on average are considerably older than recent immigrants or the Canadian-born. Age structure is examined in this portrait, and where differences in age are important, information is provided separately for age groups. However, readers are advised that differences in age can be a significant factor even when age is not explicitly addressed.

A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of a large urban core with a population of at least 100,000 together with adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of social and economic integration with the urban core.

In 1996, the Victoria CMA included the following municipalities: Victoria, Esquimalt, Colwood, Metchosin, Langford, Capital, View Royal, Highlands, East Saanich, New Songhees. Throughout this profile, the Victoria CMA, with all of its component municipalities, is referred to simply as Victoria.

The population data presented in this report do not include non-permanent residents. In 1996 for the first time, Statistics Canada included non-permanent residents in the population. There were 167,000 non-permanent residents in Canada in 1996, bringing the official population count to 28,528,000 instead of the 28,361,000 shown here.

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HIGHLIGHTS

This portrait describes recent immigrants in the Victoria metropolitan area ("Victoria" for short) as of 1996. Recent immigrants are immigrants who landed during the period 1981-1996. Immigrants who landed during the period 1991-1996 are called very recent or most recent immigrants.

The background, personal attributes and outcomes of immigrants reflect Canada's immigration policies, and the choices immigrants make as to where to live in Canada.

Labour market behaviour, the jobs of recent immigrants, and their income and housing conditions describe the adjustment of immigrants to the economy. This process clearly takes time. Many immigrants do not immediately access long-term jobs that match their formal education, and the initial years are marked by relatively low income, large households and crowded housing. As their stay lengthens, however, they more or less catch up to those who were here before, although some differences remain.

Immigrants and recent immigrants (Part A)

- In 1996 there were 14,200 recent immigrants in Victoria, 0.7 per cent of all recent immigrants living in Canada, accounting for 25 per cent of immigrants in Victoria and 4.8 per cent of the population of the metropolitan area. The number of immigrants residing in Victoria increased during the 1981-1996 period, while the share of immigrants in the population of Victoria declined over the same period.

- Over seven out of ten immigrants who landed during the 1980s had become Canadian citizens by 1996.

Who are the recent immigrants (Part B):

- Recent immigrants to Victoria come from all over the world. Asian origins dominate among immigrants who landed after 1990, and the share of the People's Republic of China, the largest source country, is 14 per cent.

- More than one-half of recent immigrants entered through the family class. Thirty-two per cent of recent immigrants destined for Victoria entered through the economic class. Refugees made up 8 per cent of those who landed during 1981-1996.

- Almost one-half of recent immigrants are 25 to 44 years of age, and 14 per cent are children under 15. Of Victoria's Canadian-born population, these groups make up one-third and one-fifth respectively.

- Nine out of ten persons (89%) who immigrated between 1991 and 1996 reported being able to conduct a conversation in English or French. The proportion declines with age: it is 96 per cent in the 15-24 age group, and one-half for seniors.

- For one-half of the most recent immigrants the language most often spoken at home is neither English nor French, but a foreign language.

- The level of education of recent immigrants in Victoria is higher than that of the Canadian-born. Recent immigrants contribute more than evenly to the number of physical scientists and engineers, and pursue studies at a high rate.

Families and households (Part C)

- Very few recent immigrants, including seniors, live alone. About one in eight of those living with relatives live in an extended-family arrangement, twice the rate among the Canadian-born.

- Recent immigrant families are more likely than Canadian-born families to include never-married children, and this at a later stage in the life of the parents. Recent immigrant families are also somewhat larger than Canadian-born families.

- Households consisting of recent immigrants with or without other Canadians make up 6 per cent of all households in Victoria. Households of immigrants who landed during the 1990s account for somewhat less than one-half of these recent immigrant households and 2.4 per cent of all households.

- Family households larger than a nuclear family are rather common among recent immigrants. One in six households of recent immigrants, and only one in twenty households whose adult members are all Canadian-born are of this type. Households of recent immigrants are significantly larger than Canadian-born households.

Participation in the economy (Part D)

- Recent immigrants in Victoria have a somewhat lower rate of participation in the labour force and a higher unemployment rate than the Canadian-born. Immigrated men over 25 adjust almost immediately to the labour market.

- Lack of knowledge of English is a major barrier to labour force participation by women. However, it accounts for only a small part of the disparity in labour force participation of the most recent immigrants, and its significance diminishes over time as immigrants learn English.

- Employment of recent immigrants tends to be much more than that of the Canadian-born in sales and services occupations, and in the hospitality and other services sector. Administrative occupations, the public sector and construction and transportation account for a lower share of jobs of recent immigrants than of the Canadian-born.

- The jobs of recently immigrated women require a relatively low level of skill, and the skills of these women are not fully utilised. For recently immigrated men, however, the job skills and degree of utilisation of skills are similar to those of the Canadian-born.

Income (Part E)

- On average among persons reporting income for the year 1995, the income of the most recent immigrants is three-quarters of the income of the Canadian-born, while the income of persons who immigrated during the 1980s is about 85 per cent of that of the Canadian-born.

- Transfers from government make up a similar share of the income of recent immigrant households and Canadian-born households for ages up to 65. For households of seniors, the share of transfers is significantly lower for recent immigrants than for the Canadian-born.

- Over time, the average income of immigrants increases. While three to four in ten recent immigrants have no income or income under $10,000, the average income of earlier immigrants is higher than that of the Canadian-born. The average level of income of recent as well as earlier immigrant households is higher than that of Canadian-born households.

- One in four recent immigrants experience low income, i.e., they live in families with income of less than one-half of median family income, or, if they do not live in a family, have income of less than one-half of the median income of unattached individuals, compared to fewer than one in six persons born in Canada.

Housing (Part F)

- It is more common for recent immigrants than for the Canadian-born to live in crowded conditions. More than one in seven recent immigrant households (15%) live in crowded conditions – i.e. have one person or more per room - compared to 4 per cent of Canadian-born households. Twenty-nine per cent of households consisting only of most recent immigrants live in crowded conditions. Crowding is particularly common among larger recent immigrant households.

- It is slightly more common for recent immigrant households to spend a larger share of income on shelter. Thirty-six per cent of recent immigrant households spend more than 30 per cent of their income on shelter compared to 31 per cent of Canadian-born households. For households consisting only of persons who immigrated between 1991 and 1994, this share is 44 per cent.

- Home ownership is as common among joint households of very recent immigrants and others as it is among Canadian-born households.

PART A: IMMIGRANTS AND RECENT IMMIGRANTS

58,000 immigrants in Victoria Metropolitan Area

Table A.1: Total and Immigrant Population, Victoria Metropolitan Area, British Columbia, and Canada, 1981-1996

				Change 1981-1991		Change 1991-1996		Change 1981-1996	
	1981	1991	1996	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Victoria CMA									
Immigrants	53,700	55,400	57,800	1,700	3%	2,400	4%	4,100	8%
Canadian-born	175,800	226,900	240,400	51,100	29%	13,500	6%	64,600	37%
Total Population	229,500	282,300	298,200	52,800	23%	15,900	6%	68,700	30%
British Columbia									
Immigrants	625,800	723,200	903,200	97,400	16%	180,000	25%	277,400	44%
Canadian-born	2,087,800	2,496,300	2,756,500	408,500	20%	260,200	10%	668,700	32%
Total Population	2,713,600	3,219,500	3,659,700	505,900	19%	440,200	14%	946,100	35%
Canada									
Immigrants	3,827,500	4,342,900	4,971,100	515,400	13%	628,200	14%	1,143,600	30%
Canadian-born	20,256,000	22,427,800	23,390,300	2,171,800	11%	962,600	4%	3,134,300	15%
Total Population	24,083,500	26,770,600	28,361,400	2,687,100	11%	1,590,800	6%	4,277,900	18%

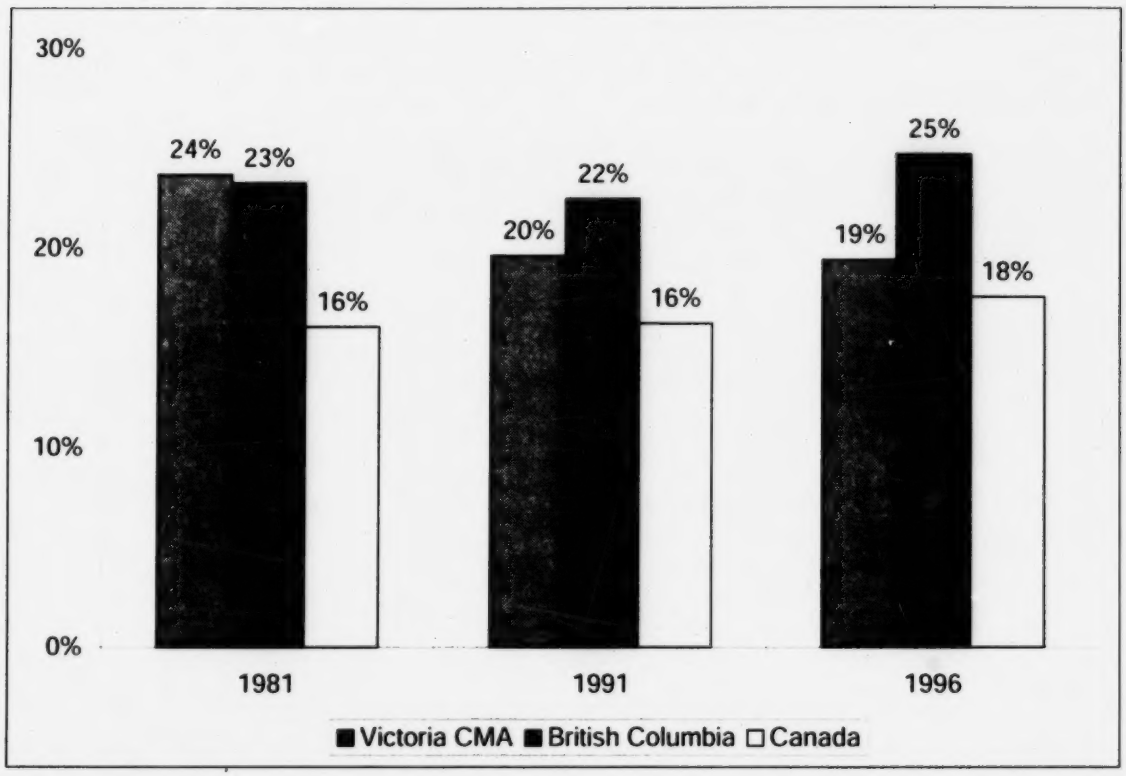
According to the census, there were 57,800 immigrants living in the Census Metropolitan Area (CMA; for a definition see the Foreword) of Victoria (i.e., the Victoria area or Victoria for short) in 1996. The immigrant population in Victoria has increased over the 15 years ending in 1996 although it has grown at a slower rate than the Canadian-born population within the CMA. Over the period spanning 1981 to 1996, the number of immigrants living in Victoria increased by 4,100 or 8 per cent. In comparison, Victoria's Canadian-born population increased by 64,600 or 37 per cent.

Victoria's immigrant population has increased at a slower pace than the immigrant population in British Columbia. To take the most recent five-year period as an example, between 1991 and 1996 the number of immigrants in Victoria CMA increased by 2,400, or 4 per cent. By comparison, the total number of immigrants living in British Columbia increased by 180,000, or 25%. The population of immigrants in Canada increased by 628,200 or 14 per cent during the same five years.

In 1996, Victoria's share of Canada's five million immigrants was 1.2 per cent in 1996, down from 1.4 per cent 15 years earlier. The metropolitan area was the place of residence of 1.1 per cent of the population of Canada and of about the same share of the country's Canadian-born population (1.0%). These shares were virtually the same as in 1981 (1.0% and 0.9% respectively).

Victoria's share of the immigrant population of British Columbia has fallen from 9 per cent in 1981 to 6 per cent in 1996. By contrast, its shares of the Canadian-born and total population of British Columbia were approximately the same in both years, between 8 and 9 per cent.

Figure A.1: Number of immigrants as a percentage of the population, Victoria Metropolitan Area, British Columbia, and Canada, 1981-1996



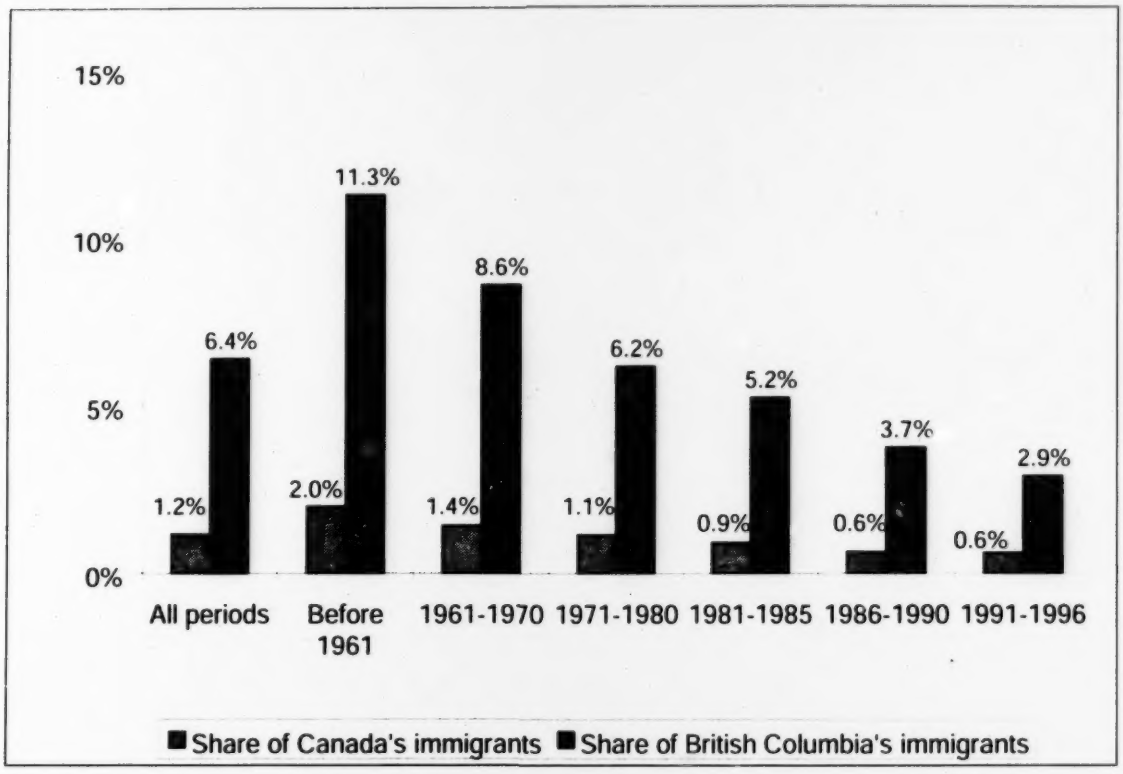
The proportion of Victoria's population comprised of immigrants has decreased between 1981 and 1996. In 1981, immigrants represented 24 per cent of the population. In 1996, immigrants accounted for 19 per cent of the population. However, the proportion of immigrants in the population of British Columbia has increased over the same period. In 1991 and 1996, the proportion of immigrants in Victoria's population was lower than the proportion in the province, but higher than the proportion in the country overall.

Table A.2: Immigrant population by period of immigration, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996

Period of immigration	Victoria		British Columbia		Canada	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Before 1961	21,000	36%	186,000	21%	1,054,900	21%
1961-1970	11,200	19%	130,700	14%	788,600	16%
1971-1980	11,300	20%	184,000	20%	996,200	20%
1981-1985	3,600	6%	69,800	8%	401,400	8%
1986-1990	4,300	7%	116,100	13%	691,000	14%
1991-1996	6,300	11%	216,600	24%	1,039,000	21%
Total	57,800	100%	903,200	100%	4,971,100	100%

Many of Victoria's immigrants have lived in Canada for a long time. Seventy-five per cent of the 57,800 immigrants living in Victoria in 1996 arrived in Canada more than 15 years earlier. Thus, when compared with the immigrant population living in all of Canada, a relatively small share of recent immigrants distinguishes Victoria's immigrant population. One in four of Victoria's immigrants arrived in Canada after 1980. In British Columbia, 45 per cent of immigrants arrived after 1980, while for Canada, the share is 43 per cent. Moreover, 11 per cent of immigrants living in Victoria arrived after 1990 compared with 24 per cent in the province of British Columbia, and 21 per cent in Canada.

Figure A.2: Percentage of Canada's and British Columbia's immigrants residing in Victoria Metropolitan Area, by period of immigration, 1996



In 1996, just over one per cent (1.2%) of Canada's five million immigrants was living in Victoria. Very recent immigrants to Canada were less likely to be living in Victoria. Of the immigrant population of 1,039,000 who arrived in Canada between 1991 and 1996, 0.6 per cent were living in Victoria. Of the population of immigrants who landed before 1961, 2.0 per cent resided in Victoria.

Victoria is diminishing in importance as a place of residence for British Columbia's recent immigrants. In 1996, 6.4 per cent of British Columbia's total immigrants, and 2.9 per cent of British Columbia's immigrants arriving between 1991 and 1996 lived in Victoria. Of British Columbia's population of immigrants who landed before 1961, 11.3 per cent live in Victoria.

Table A.3: Recent immigrants, number and percentage of the population, Victoria Metropolitan Area, British Columbia and Canada, 1996

	Victoria CMA		British Columbia		Canada	
Period of immigration	Number	% of population	Number	% of population	Number	% of population
1981-1985	3,650	1.2%	69,780	1.9%	401,370	1.4%
1986-1990	4,330	1.4%	116,090	3.1%	691,030	2.4%
1991-1996	6,260	2.1%	216,610	5.9%	1,038,980	3.6%
Total 1981-1996	14,230	4.7%	402,470	10.9%	2,131,380	7.5%

In 1996, there were 14,230 recent immigrants (defined as those arriving in Canada after 1980) living in Victoria, representing 4.7 per cent of the population. The share of Victoria's population comprised of recent immigrants is low in comparison with national figures. In 1996, post-1980 immigrants accounted for 7.5 per cent of Canada's total population.

In Victoria, the most recent arrivals - those who came to Canada in the 1991 to 1996 period - numbered almost 6,300, representing 2.1 per cent of the total population. In Canada as a whole, the most recent arrivals numbered just over one million, representing close to 4 per cent of the population.

More than seven out of ten recent immigrants have become Canadian citizens

By 1996, a majority of Victoria's immigrants who arrived in Canada during the 1980s – 71 per cent – had become Canadian citizens. Recent immigrants from most countries are becoming Canadians in high proportions, from 70 per cent to close to 100 per cent. Of immigrants born in four of the top ten countries of birth of Victoria's immigrants who landed during the 1980s (see Table B.1), Vietnam, Iran, the Philippines and Poland, between 90 and 100 per cent had obtained Canadian citizenship by 1996. Of immigrants from another two of these ten countries – the People's Republic of China and Hong Kong - between 70 and 90 per cent of those who landed during the 1980s had done so.

A significant share of immigrants from Germany, the United Kingdom, India and the United States – also among the top ten countries of birth for Victoria during the 1980s - and the Netherlands and Japan are postponing or forgoing Canadian citizenship. The rate of acquisition of Canadian citizenship by persons who immigrated from these countries during the eighties is less than 70 per cent, the lowest being zero per cent. For western European countries especially, the rate of naturalization has dropped significantly from levels above 80 per cent for earlier immigrants.

Immigrants from these countries may want to keep open the option of returning to their country of birth. Depending on policies in countries of birth, people may not be able to retain their original nationality if they become Canadian citizens. As well, children born in Canada while the immigrant parents are still citizens of their country of birth may have certain rights in that country.

In today's global economic village there are more and more people who live in more than one country over the course of their working lives. To work in Canada, they may become landed immigrants; but they may not have the intention of becoming Canadian citizens, and may never do so.

The majority of immigrants, however, clearly continues to opt to become Canadian citizens. Seventy-one per cent of immigrants who landed during the eighties had already done so by June 1996; more are likely to follow in the years to come.

Citizenship refers to a person's legal citizenship status, as reported in the 1996 census. In Canada, there is a residence requirement of three years before Canadian citizenship can be acquired. As a result, many immigrants who arrived in Canada between 1991 and 1996 were not yet eligible for Canadian citizenship at the time the census was carried out in 1996. For this reason, this group is not considered here. Instead, focus is on persons who immigrated between 1981 and 1990.

In preparing Figure A.3 we did not consider all countries of birth of recent immigrants living in Victoria in 1996. A country was considered if :

- it is the place of birth of at least 10,000 immigrants living in Canada, and
- if the number of immigrants of the 1980s born in that country and living in Victoria is at least 50.

To increase the comparability with information from earlier censuses, we regrouped together in "Countries of the former USSR", "Countries of the former Czech and Slovak Federal Republic" and in "Countries of the former Yugoslavia" former member countries of these blocks, which may be listed in Figure A.3, and in Tables B.1 and B.2 in the next section. These countries are:

Countries of the former USSR: *Ukraine, Russian Federation, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Balarus, Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.*

Countries of the former Czech and Slovak Federal Republic: *Czech Republic and Slovakia.*

Countries of the former Yugoslavia: *Yugoslavia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, and Macedonia.*

Figure A.3: Canadian citizenship by country of birth, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996

More than 90 percent of Victoria's immigrants who arrived in Canada during the eighties and were born in these countries have become Canadian citizens:	Less than 70 percent of Victoria's immigrants who arrived in Canada during the eighties and were born in these countries have become Canadian citizens:	More than one-third of Victoria's immigrants who arrived in Canada during the eighties and were born in these countries have **dual citizenship**:
Cambodia	Germany	Countries of Former Czech and Slovak Federal Republic
Countries of the former Yugoslavia	United Kingdom	Hungary
Hungary	India	Poland
Taiwan	Netherlands	
El Salvador	United States	
Viet Nam	Japan	
South Africa, Republic of		
Iran		
Portugal		
Jamaica		
Trinidad and Tobago		
Philippines		
Korea, South		
Poland		

Percent of immigrants with Canadian Citizenship (including those with dual citizenship)		**Percent of immigrants with dual citizenship**	
Immigrated before 1981:	89%	Immigrated before 1981:	12%
Immigrated 1981-1990:	71%	Immigrated 1981-1990:	16%

Overall, nearly one out of six immigrants (16%) who arrived during the 1980s had acquired Canadian citizenship while retaining the citizenship of another country. Dual citizenship is more common among recent than earlier immigrants. Among Victoria's immigrants who arrived in Canada before 1981, about one in eight (12%) reported dual citizenship in 1996.

PART B: WHO ARE THE RECENT IMMIGRANTS?

Origin, destination and immigration class

Asian origins are predominant

Table B.1: Immigrants' top ten places of birth, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996

Place of Birth	Number	Percentage		Number	Percentage
Immigrated 1991-1996					
1 China	890	14%	Total of top ten countries	4,080	65%
2 United States	710	11%			
3 United Kingdom	570	9%	All other countries	2,170	35%
4 Hong Kong	400	6%			
5 Philippines	300	5%	Total	6,250	100%
6 Germany	290	5%			
7 India	290	5%			
8 Viet Nam	240	4%			
9 Taiwan	210	3%			
10 South Africa	200	3%			
Immigrated 1981-1990					
1 United Kingdom	1,680	21%	Total of top ten countries	5,660	71%
2 United States	1,050	13%			
3 China	680	9%	All other countries	2,320	29%
4 Germany	400	5%			
5 Hong Kong	390	5%	Total	7,980	100%
6 India	380	5%			
7 Viet Nam	350	4%			
8 Poland	300	4%			
9 Philippines	250	3%			
10 Iran	200	2%			
Immigrated before 1981					
1 United Kingdom	19,260	44%	Total of top ten countries	34,060	78%
2 United States	4,150	10%			
3 Germany	2,620	6%	All other countries	9,510	22%
4 Netherlands	2,030	5%			
5 China	1,520	3%	Total	43,570	100%
6 India	1,350	3%			
7 Portugal	1,020	2%			
8 Denmark	740	2%			
9 Hong Kong	710	2%			
10 Italy	700	2%			

Victoria's immigrants come from the world over, and represent a diversity of cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Over the past several decades, however, there has been a considerable change in the source countries of immigrants. In 1996, for example, there were 6,250 residents of Victoria who had very recently landed in Canada, between 1991 and 1996. The most common country of birth for these immigrants was the People's Republic of China, accounting for 14 per cent of these new arrivals to Canada. In fact, of the ten most common countries of birth, six were in Asia – the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, the Philippines, India, Vietnam and Taiwan – and these accounted for 37 per cent of these very recent immigrants. In comparison, these same six countries accounted for only 4 per cent of Victoria's immigrants who arrived in Canada prior to 1961 (not shown in Table B.1).

Among Victoria's earlier immigrants – those arriving in Canada before 1981 – the United Kingdom and the United States were the most common countries of birth, accounting for 44 per cent and 10 per cent of this group. These two countries continued to be major sources of immigrants who landed after 1981 and are living in Victoria.

In general, the birth origins of Victoria's immigrant population vary in relation to period of immigration. European birth origins are predominant among those who immigrated in the 1950s, 1960s and to a lesser extent in the 1970s, and Asian birth origins are predominant among those who immigrated in the 1980s and 90s, and this is consistent with what has happened in Canada generally.

Victoria's share of recent immigrants varies by country of birth

Table B.2 does not list all countries of birth of recent immigrants living in Victoria in 1996. A country is included if:
- it is the place of birth of at least 10,000 recent immigrants living in Canada in 1996,
- if the number of recent immigrants born in that country and living in Victoria is at least one tenth of one per cent (0.1%) of the number living in all of Canada, and
- the number living in Victoria is 50 or more.

Victoria is home to a larger share of immigrants from some countries than from other countries. For example, of the 25,500 Germany-born individuals who immigrated since 1981 and were living in Canada in 1996, 690 or 2.7 per cent were living in Victoria at that time. Victoria's share of United Kingdom-, South Africa-, United States-, and Ethiopia-born recent immigrants to Canada is also above average. Of the 75,400 U.S.-born recent immigrants to Canada, 2.3 per cent were residing in Victoria in 1996. Aside from the countries mentioned, no other immigrant group reaches Victoria's share of the Canadian born population of 1.0 per cent.

Table B.2: Number of recent immigrants to Canada by country of birth and share residing in Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996

Countries of Birth	Total Recent Immigrants to Canada	Share residing in Victoria
Germany	25,500	2.7%
United Kingdom	88,870	2.5%
South Africa, Republic of	14,770	2.5%
United States	75,435	2.3%
Ethiopia	13,340	1.6%
Total – Canadian-born	23,390,300	1.0%
China, People's Republic of	153,295	1.0%
Countries of former Czech and Slovak Federal Republic	12,125	0.7%
Total – Recent Immigrants	2,131,400	0.7%
Guatemala	12,160	0.7%
Peru	11,705	0.6%
Viet Nam	97,550	0.6%
Taiwan	43,415	0.6%
Iran	43,470	0.5%
Countries of former Yugoslavia	45,435	0.5%
India	139,425	0.5%
Mexico	18,325	0.5%
Philippines	127,765	0.4%
Italy	11,905	0.4%
Hong Kong	185,895	0.4%
El Salvador	37,745	0.4%
Poland	110,350	0.4%
Korea, South	30,270	0.3%
Cambodia	14,810	0.3%
Countries of former U.S.S.R.	34,925	0.3%
France	21,455	0.3%
Trinidad and Tobago	27,655	0.3%
Jamaica	50,975	0.2%
Portugal	42,550	0.2%
Lebanon	44,280	0.1%

Large majority immigrated through family and economic class

The number of immigrants destined for Victoria increased by 34 per cent from 1981-85 to 1991-95, as a result of Canada's decision to admit more immigrants. The number of immigrants from the economic class almost doubled between the first half of the 1980s and the first half of the 1990s, reaching over one-third of the total. Fewer than 1 in 10 recent immigrants destined for Victoria were refugees, a share smaller than for Canada as a whole. The "other" category consists mainly of foreign-born retired persons.

According to the census, there are fewer recent immigrants living in Victoria in 1996 than the number who landed during the period 1981-1995 (see Table A.3). This reflects the fact that recent immigrants who have subsequently moved away from the area or have died outnumber those who have moved to Victoria from other parts of the country.

Table B.3: Recent immigrants by immigration class, with Victoria Metropolitan Area as intended destination, 1981-1995

	1981-1985	1986-1990	1991-1995
Family class	2,260	2,220	3,250
Economic class	1,160	1,470	2,220
Refugees	410	560	210
Other	620	470	280
Total	4,450	4,710	5,960

The 1996 Census did not ask immigrants about the immigration categories through which they were admitted to Canada. This information is available only from records at Citizenship and Immigration Canada, and pertains to the time of landing.

Under Canada's immigration policy there are three major categories of immigration. These categories correspond broadly to the economic, family reunification and humanitarian or protection objectives of the Immigration Act. Hence, persons entering the country as immigrants or refugees have different reasons to do so and accordingly are likely to face different challenges and opportunities after landing in Canada.

Immigrants entering through the *economic* category are persons who have actively sought to settle in Canada and have presumably prepared themselves for the transition. They are selected as individuals and may be accompanied by a spouse and dependants. Only the selected immigrants are assessed against criteria designed to maximise the probability of success in the labour market or in business. Spouses and dependants in this category are not screened against selection criteria but are nevertheless part of the family unit who shared in the decision to move and participated in the preparations for transition. Less than one-half of the economic category are screened against selection criteria.

The *family reunification* category is made up of individuals who are joining family members already established in Canada. These immigrants are not assessed against labour market criteria. They are, however, sponsored by a relative in Canada who is a Canadian citizen or permanent resident and who has taken the responsibility of providing support for their settlement. Hence, those in the family reunification category are less likely than their counterparts in the economic category to have moved for economic reasons directly related to the labour market or business.

The *refugee* category is made up of Convention refugees and other refugee-like persons who are deemed to require protection or relief. These persons may not have wanted to leave their country of origin and may not have had the opportunity to prepare for moving to Canada. Refugees are expected to take longer to adjust to their new environment and their economic achievements may be modest compared to those of immigrants in the economic category.

During the period 1981-1995, immigrants were also admitted, in smaller numbers, through special categories or programs established for humanitarian or public policy reasons. These *other* immigrants include, for instance: live-in caregivers in Canada, members of the former retired immigrant class, Post-Determination Refugee Claimants in Canada and persons landed through the Deferred Removal Order Class and the Backlog Clearance program.

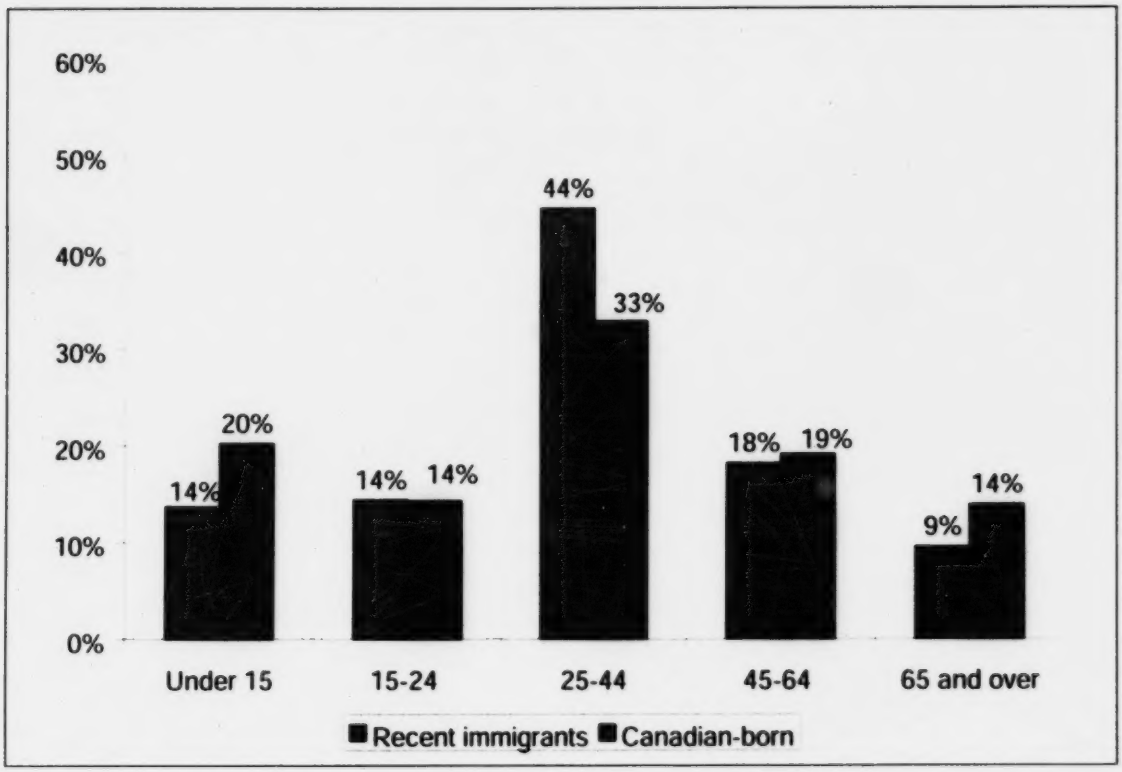
The number and characteristics of immigrants by immigration category have been shown to have an impact on the adjustment process and are reflected in the statistics on immigrants presented in this report. In addition, other factors that influence the circumstances of the population of Canada, and in particular metropolitan areas, also have an effect on the conditions of recent and earlier immigrants living in these areas.

This section presents, by category of immigration, the number of immigrants landed between 1981 and 1995 who indicated they intended to settle in the Victoria metropolitan area. These numbers are presented for indicative purposes only. They cannot be taken as an accurate description of the population of recent immigrants in the Victoria area as some have, for instance, moved away, some have died, and other recent immigrants may have moved to Victoria from other parts of Canada.

Age and gender

Fewer children and seniors, more 25-44 year olds among recent immigrants

Figure B.1: Age structure of the recent immigrant and Canadian-born population, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996



The age distribution of the recent immigrant population (those arriving between 1981 and 1996) is markedly different from that of the Canadian-born population, with a larger proportion aged 25 to 44, and proportionally fewer children under 15. In 1996, close to than one-half (44%) of recent immigrants living in Victoria were between the ages of 25 and 44, compared with one-third (33%) of Canadian-born individuals. Children under 15 accounted for just 14 per cent of the recent immigrant population compared with 20 per cent for Canadian-born children. Persons of 65 years of age and over are also less numerous among recent immigrants than the Canadian-born.

These differences in age structure result from two factors. The first is age at arrival in Canada. Immigrants tend to arrive in Canada during their prime working-age years. This was the case among immigrants who arrived more than 30 years ago, and it is still the case today. It is therefore not surprising that a large share of recent immigrants were within the 25 to 44 age group at the time of the 1996 census.

The second factor is ageing. Only a small percentage of recent immigrants are children. On average across the country, about 20 per cent of recent immigrants were children under 15 years of age at the time of their arrival in Canada. But by 1996, many of these children had lived in the country for several years, and had since become youths or young adults. Children born in Canada to immigrant parents are not themselves considered immigrants, but are part of the Canadian-born population. Thus, the smaller proportion of children within the recent immigrant population should not be taken as an indication of lower fertility rates among immigrants.

Earlier immigrants, for the same two reasons, tend to be older than recent immigrants and the population born in the country. In the Victoria area, over three-fourths of immigrants who arrived prior to 1981 are over 45 years old, compared to 33 per cent of the Canadian-born (not shown in Figure B.1). The reader may want to bear this in mind, since many of the characteristics and circumstances described in this profile vary with age. Differences between groups of immigrants and the Canadian-born may be a reflection of differences in age. Often other factors play a role as well, as will be shown.

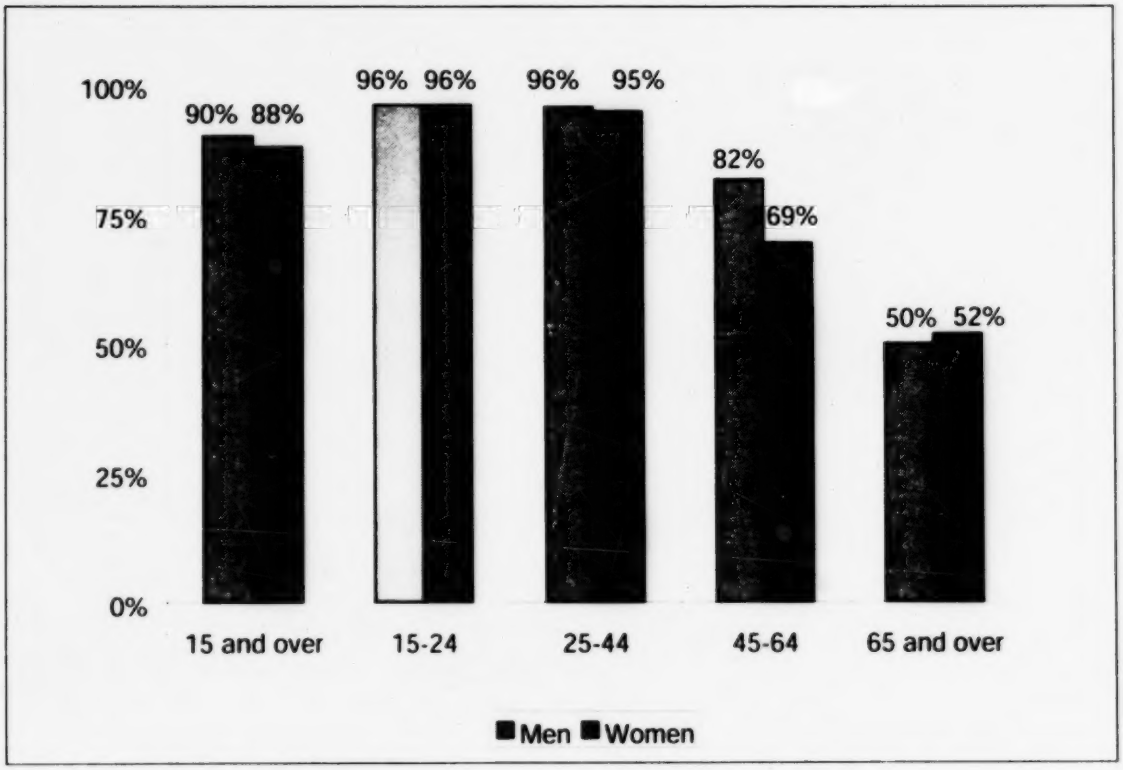
Table B.4: Number of women as a proportion of the population, by age group, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996

Age in 1996	Recent Immigrants	Canadian-born
0 to 15	49%	49%
15 to 24	51%	50%
25 to 44	57%	51%
45 to 64	54%	51%
65 and over	57%	59%
All ages	54%	52%
Total number of women	7,700	124,000
Total number of men	6,500	116,400

The proportion of women in the recent-immigrant population in Victoria is similar to but, at 54 per cent, slightly higher than that of the Canadian-born population. The number of women is particularly high among recent immigrants from the Philippines (71 per cent are women), Germany (67 per cent are women), and the United States (55 per cent are women). Although for some countries of birth men outnumber women, the share of women is typically within the range of 50 to 55 per cent. Women make up a relatively large share of recent immigrants between the ages of 25 and 64.

Large majority of very recent immigrants speak English or French

Figure B.2: Proportion of men and women aged 15 years and over who immigrated between 1991 and 1996 able to speak English or French, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996



A large majority of Victoria's immigrants report being able to carry on a conversation in at least one of Canada's two official languages. Even among very recent immigrants, who arrived in Canada between 1991 and 1996, 89 per cent reported ability to speak an official language. Eleven per cent of these most recent immigrants – about one in nine individuals – could not speak either official language. Knowledge of official languages is more widespread among those who immigrated in earlier periods: 94 per cent of those arriving between 1981 and 1990, and 98 per cent of those arriving before 1981 indicated ability to speak an official language (not shown in Figure B.2).

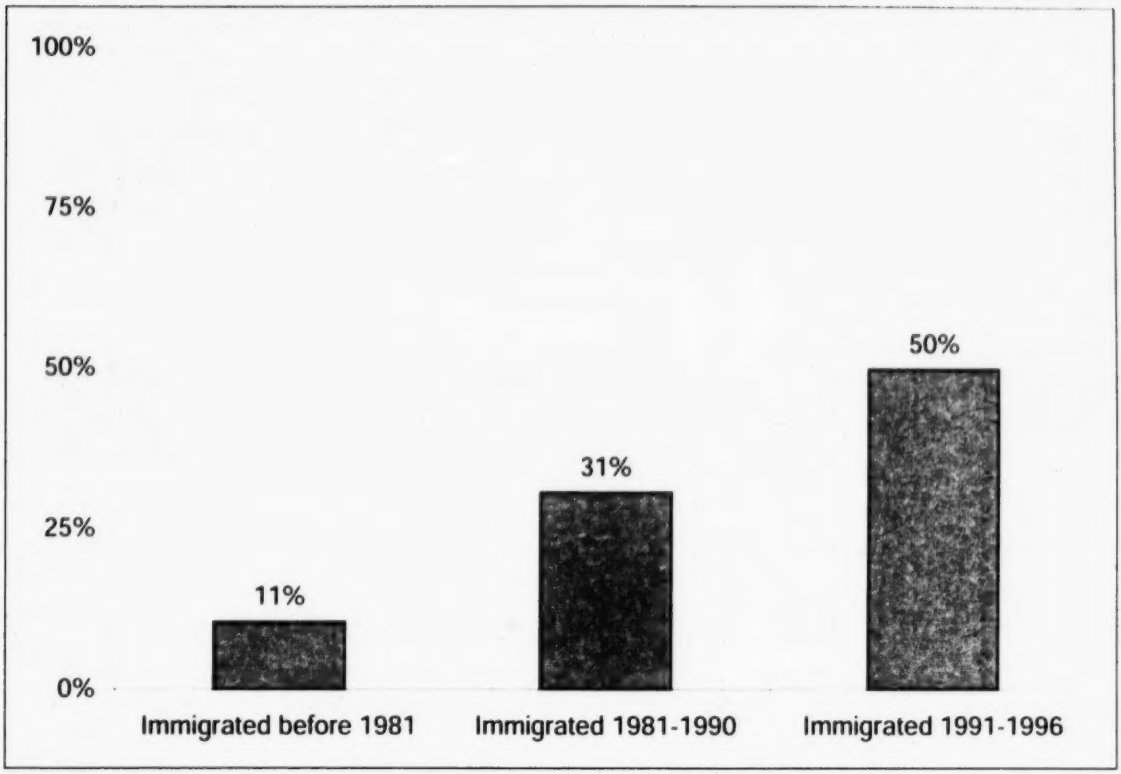
Most recently immigrated women are somewhat less likely than men to have conversational knowledge of English or French. Among Victoria's women who landed in Canada between 1991 and 1996, for example, 12 per cent could speak neither English nor French. The comparable figure among men arriving in this period was 10 per cent.

The proportion of Victoria's immigrants able to carry on a conversation in English or French decreases with age. Among younger immigrants who landed in Canada between 1991 and 1996, almost all are able to speak an official language, and there is little difference between men and women in this regard. The same is true for those between the ages of 25 and 44. Among those aged 45 to 64, however, the percentage that can speak English or French falls sharply, and more so for women than men (82% of men and 69% of women). For both men and women, seniors aged 65 and over are least likely to have conversational ability in English or French (50% of men and 52% of women).

Immigrant women make up the majority of those unable to speak English or French. In Victoria, for example, there were a total of 550 immigrants of age 15 and over who had landed in Canada between 1991 and 1996, and who could speak neither official language at the time of the 1996 census. Women accounted for 60 per cent of this number. A large number of immigrants who are without knowledge of official languages are women aged between 45 and 64. They made up 11 per cent of all immigrants of 15 years of age and over who arrived between 1991 and 1996, but accounted for 30 per cent of those unable to speak English or French.

One-half of very recent immigrants speak a foreign language at home

Figure B.3: Use of a foreign language in the home as a percentage of the number of persons aged 15 and over, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996



For a significant share of Victoria's very recent immigrant population, the language spoken most often at home is one other than English or French. One-half of immigrants who landed between 1991 and 1996 most often speak a foreign language within their homes.

The use of English in the home is considerably higher among those who immigrated in earlier periods. More than two-thirds (69%) of those who immigrated between 1981 and 1990, and nine out of ten (89%) of those who immigrated prior to 1981 indicated that English was the language most frequently spoken at home. French is most often spoken at home by less than 1 per cent of these groups.

Level of education higher among recent immigrants

Highest level of education refers to the education attained at the time of the census in May 1996. It does not refer to education level upon arrival in Canada. Immigrants may have received additional schooling in Canada after their arrival.

The education level of Victoria's recent immigrant population is higher than that of Victoria's Canadian-born population. For instance, the proportion of men holding a university degree is one in three (31%) for the most recent immigrants as opposed to less than one in five for Canadian-born men (18%). The proportion of very recently immigrated women holding a degree is one in four (25%). But only one out of six Canadian-born women (16%) have a degree. However, college and trade diplomas are equally common among both the Canadian-born and recent immigrants.

Recent immigrants are also slightly more numerous at the opposite end of the education spectrum. Few Canadian-born men (4%) and women (3%) have less than grade 9, compared with 7 per cent of men and 8 per cent of women who immigrated after 1980.

Table B.5: Highest level of education, persons aged 15 and over, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996 (percentage distribution)

	Less than grade 9	Some high school	High school diploma	College or trade diploma	University degree	Number of persons
Women						
Canadian-born	3%	24%	27%	30%	16%	100,420
Immigrated before 1981	11%	22%	20%	30%	17%	23,280
Immigrated 1981-1990	8%	20%	23%	30%	19%	4,040
Immigrated 1991-1996	8%	17%	21%	29%	25%	2,750
Men						
Canadian-born	4%	25%	24%	29%	18%	91,430
Immigrated before 1981	7%	16%	14%	38%	25%	20,280
Immigrated 1981-1990	7%	18%	22%	27%	27%	3,270
Immigrated 1991-1996	7%	14%	20%	28%	31%	2,230

Table B.6: Persons with less than high school and persons with more than high school, as a share of the population, by age group, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996

	No high school diploma			With post-secondary diploma or degree		
	25-44	45-64	65 and over	25-44	45-64	65 and over
Women						
Canadian-born	15%	24%	47%	58%	55%	33%
Immigrated before 1981	15%	24%	51%	61%	56%	31%
Immigrated 1981-1996	18%	30%	50%	63%	50%	32%
Men						
Canadian-born	20%	22%	43%	56%	60%	44%
Immigrated before 1981	17%	18%	34%	63%	71%	55%
Immigrated 1981-1996	14%	21%	36%	68%	68%	45%

When education levels are compared by age group, it appears that the younger generation has a much higher level of education, whether born in or outside Canada. For instance, only one in six persons under 45 years of age born in Canada has not completed high school or post-secondary education, compared to almost one-half of seniors. Over one-half of Canadian-born under 45 years of age have a post-secondary diploma or degree (56% of men and 58% of women), compared to 44 per cent of men over 65 and 33 per cent of women. There is one exception to this pattern: the share of men with a post-secondary diploma or degree is highest for the 45-64 age group. A similar large shift in educational qualifications is observed among immigrants. Thus, the level of education of immigrants differs far more by age than by period of immigration.

In every age group, recently immigrated men are better educated than the Canadian-born. But for women the situation varies by age. Women under 45 have a slightly higher level of education, whether they were born in Canada or immigrated recently or earlier. Recently immigrated women aged 45 to 64 have a lower education level than earlier immigrants and the Canadian-born. Among seniors, the education level of immigrants is similar to that of the Canadian-born.

Recent immigrants add to Victoria's pool of scientists and engineers

Major field of study refers to the predominant area of learning or training of a person's highest post-secondary diploma or degree. Ten major areas of study have been grouped in Table B.7 as follows:

(1) Physical sciences, engineering and trades:
- Engineering and applied science technologies and trades
- Engineering and applied sciences
- Mathematics and physical sciences
- Agricultural and biological sciences/technologies

(2) Social sciences, education, and arts
- Social sciences and related fields
- Educational, recreational and counselling services
- Humanities and related fields
- Fine and applied arts

(3) Commerce, management and business administration

(4) Health professions, sciences and technologies

The data pertain only to persons who have a post-secondary – trade or college – certificate or diploma or a university degree.

Over one-half (55%) of men who immigrated after 1980 and have a post-secondary diploma or degree majored in physical sciences, engineering or trades. This proportion is slightly lower for Canadian-born men (52%). Among women with a post-secondary diploma or degree, one in six (16%) recent immigrants have studied some physical science or technology, compared to one in ten (10%) of Canadian-born women.

Among men, recent immigrants are represented in slightly smaller proportions than the Canadian-born in the social sciences, education and arts. The share of diplomas and degrees in the field of social studies is 30% for the Canadian-born and 27% for recent immigrants. For women, the situation is the opposite, as the share is 45 per cent for recent immigrants and 42 per cent for the Canadian-born.

One-quarter of Canadian-born women (25%) studied in the broad area of commerce, management and business administration for their post-secondary diploma or degree. Only 22% of recent immigrant women chose this field. The proportion of men that graduated in health professions and sciences is similar between recent immigrants and the Canadian-born, while for women it is larger among the Canadian-born.

Table B.7: Number of persons by major field of study, as a percentage of all persons with a post-secondary diploma or degree, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996

	Canadian-born	Immigrated 1981 - 1996
Women		
Physical sciences, engineering and trades	10%	16%
Social sciences, education, and arts	42%	45%
Commerce, management and business administration	25%	22%
Health professions, sciences and technologies	22%	17%
Number of persons with post-secondary diploma or degree	45,900	3,410
Men		
Physical sciences, engineering and trades	52%	55%
Social sciences, education, and arts	30%	27%
Commerce, management and business administration	13%	13%
Health professions, sciences and technologies	6%	5%
Number of persons with post-secondary diploma or degree	43,070	3,050

Recent immigrants more likely to attend school

School attendance refers to either part-time or full-time attendance at school, college or university during the eight-month period between September 1995 and May 14, 1996. Attendance is counted only for courses which could be used as credits towards a certificate, diploma or degree.

Immigrants who landed after 1981 are more likely than pre-1980 immigrants and the Canadian-born to be attending school. Among women between 25 and 44 years of age, for example, 21 per cent of recent immigrants were attending school compared with 17 per cent of the Canadian-born.

Among young adults, the share attending school is also higher for recent immigrants than for persons born in Canada. Persons aged 15 to 19 years, who have a higher rate of school attendance than those between 20 and 24 years, make up a smaller share of recent immigrants than of the Canadian-born (not shown in Table B.8). Thus, the higher rate of school attendance among young recent immigrants is not a result of differences in age structure but reflects different behaviour.

The proportion of adult recent immigrants attending school is highest among those who already have a post-secondary degree or diploma (not shown). In Victoria, men with high school diplomas also show high rates of school attendance. Recent immigrants with foreign diplomas or degrees may be attending school full-time or part-time to obtain an equivalent Canadian diploma or degree, or to prepare for tests they need to pass to have their credentials recognised in Canada.

Table B.8: Persons attending school as a percentage of all persons in an age group, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996

	15-24	25-44	45-64
Women			
Canadian-born	62%	17%	6%
Immigrated before 1981	58%	16%	5%
Immigrated 1981-1996	68%	21%	6%
Men			
Canadian-born	60%	13%	4%
Immigrated before 1981	62%	11%	4%
Immigrated 1981-1996	70%	18%	6%

PART C: FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS

Family and household affiliation of individuals

Nine out of ten recent immigrants live with relatives

Table C.1: Living arrangements, by age, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996 (percentage distribution)

	Canadian-born	Immigrated before 1981	Immigrated 1981-1990	Immigrated 1991-1996
All Ages (including 0-15)				
Living alone	12%	19%	9%	5%
Living with non-relatives only	7%	3%	5%	4%
Living with relatives	80%	77%	86%	91%
15-24				
Living alone	5%	4%	4%	2%
Living with non-relatives only	18%	22%	11%	12%
Living with relatives	78%	74%	85%	86%
25-44				
Living alone	13%	11%	7%	7%
Living with non-relatives only	11%	6%	6%	4%
Living with relatives	76%	84%	87%	89%
45 and over				
Living alone	23%	22%	16%	6%
Living with non-relatives only	3%	2%	3%	2%
Living with relatives	74%	76%	81%	92%

Very few recent immigrants live alone. Like the Canadian born population, a large majority of recent immigrants live in households with at least two people, and in most cases, these are people with whom they are related by blood, marriage, or adoption. In fact, recent immigrants are more likely than the Canadian-born population to live with relatives. This is true for all age groups, but is most notable among people aged 45 and over. Among Canadian-born seniors in Victoria, three-fourths live with relatives, while almost one-quarter live alone. By comparison, about nine out of ten very recent immigrants aged 45 and over (92%) live with relatives, and less one in ten (6%) lives alone.

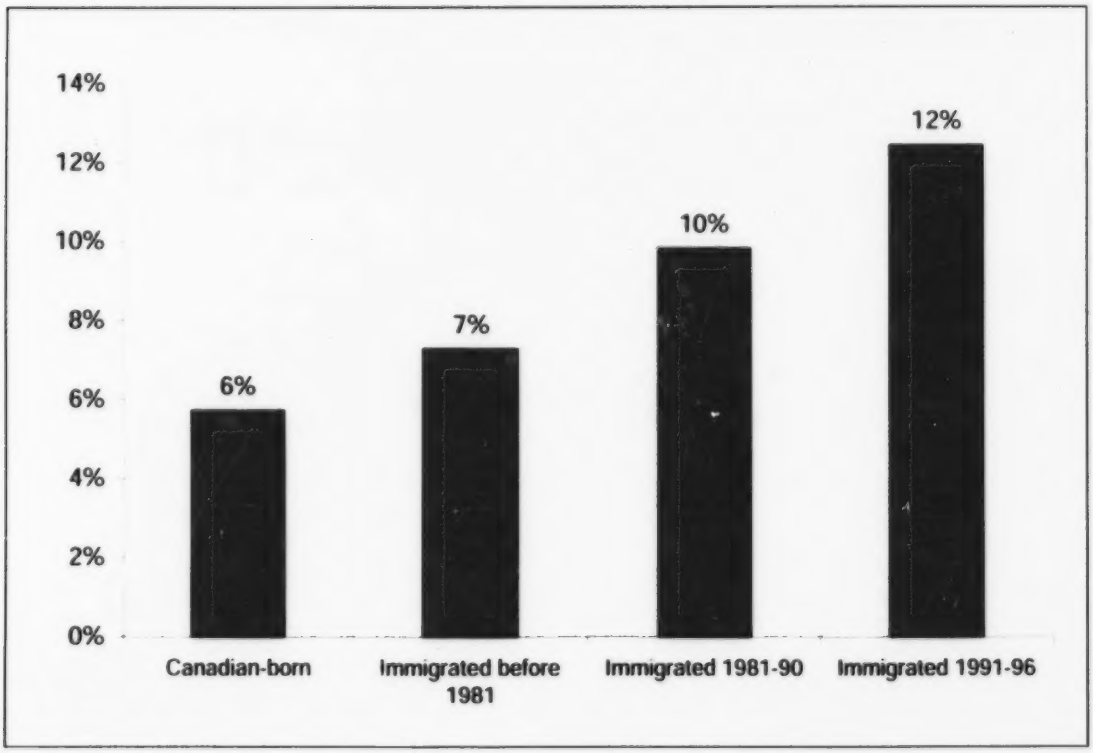
Recent immigrants more likely to live in extended families

Living arrangements refer to the composition of the household a person belongs to. Living arrangements can be simple, as in the case of the "nuclear family" household (defined as a lone parent living with never-married children, or a husband-wife family with or without never-married children living at home) or they can be more complex, and include other relatives such as aunts, uncles, grandparents, and so on. In this section, the latter situation is called an "extended family" arrangement. As an illustration, a couple with two never-married children would be considered a nuclear family. If the children's grandparents were living in the household, all members of the household would be living in an extended family arrangement.

Whereas Table C.1 includes all persons, Figure C.1 and Table C.2 include only persons who are living with relatives. A small percentage of individuals living with relatives are in "non-family" households. An example might be two adult brothers living together. The percentage of individuals in these situations is not shown in the table and figure in this section. Consequently, the percentages in Table C.2 do not add to 100%.

Recent immigrants are similar to Canadian-born individuals in that most live in nuclear families, with no relatives other than the immediate members of the nuclear family. But unlike the Canadian-born population, recent immigrants are also fairly likely to live in extended family situations. Of the Canadian-born population living with one or more relatives, only 6 per cent are part of an extended-family living arrangement. The proportion of recent immigrants in that kind of arrangement is twice as large – 12 per cent - for the most recent immigrants, and 10 per cent for immigrants who landed during the eighties.

Figure C.1: Persons living in an extended family as a percentage of the population living with relatives, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996



Extended family living arrangements are somewhat most common among older recent immigrants. One in seven (14%) of the most recent immigrants aged 45 and over live in extended families, compared with five per cent of the Canadian-born. Older recent immigrants living in extended families are most often related to someone within a nuclear family, and are not members of the nuclear family itself. This suggests that many seniors are recently immigrated parents who live with the family of their child who had come to Canada previously.

Table C.2: Persons living in nuclear and extended families as a percentage of the population living with relatives, by age group, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996

	Canadian-born	Immigrated before 1981	Immigrated 1981-1990	Immigrated 1991-1996
All ages				
% in nuclear family (no other relative)	93%	91%	88%	86%
% in extended families	6%	7%	10%	12%
Under 15				
% in nuclear family (no other relative)	94%	n.a.	91%	90%
% in extended families	6%	n.a.	9%	10%
15-24				
% in nuclear family (no other relative)	91%	92%	91%	80%
% in extended families	6%	5%	7%	16%
25-44				
% in nuclear family (no other relative)	93%	90%	89%	88%
% in extended families	6%	9%	10%	11%
45 and over				
% in nuclear family (no other relative)	93%	91%	86%	84%
% in extended families	5%	7%	11%	14%

Families

6,000 recent immigrant families in Victoria Metropolitan Area

Defining "Recent immigrant family"
Immigrant status is a characteristic of individuals. But in this section, focus shifts to an examination of the families in which recent immigrants reside. The term "recent immigrant family" refers to either a lone-parent family in which the parent is a recent immigrant, or a husband-wife family in which either (or both) spouses are recent immigrants.

The large majority of recent immigrants are members of recent immigrant families; some live alone or in non-family households. Most recently immigrated never-married children are also members of such families - the children having immigrated with their parents or parent - but some are members of earlier immigrant families (if parents immigrated before 1981 and the children followed later) or Canadian-born families (if the children were adopted, for instance).

Some recent immigrant families came to Canada as married couples, while others formed conjugal unions after arrival. Because the census only asks people to report marital status at the time of the census, it is not known if people married before or after coming to Canada. Similarly, it is not possible to determine whether recent immigrants became lone-parents before or after arrival in Canada.

Defining "Canadian-born family"
"Canadian-born families" are families in which the lone parent or both spouses were born in Canada.

Defining 'Age of family"
Age of family is determined by the age of the oldest member, i.e. the age of the lone parent or older of the spouses.

In Victoria in 1996, there were 14,200 recent immigrants who arrived in Canada between 1981 and 1996. A large majority of these immigrants – 11,900 or 84 per cent – were members of a nuclear family. In other words, they were husbands, wives, common-law partners, lone parents, or never-married children. Almost all these recent immigrants lived in 6,040 recent immigrant families, i.e. families in which either or both spouses or the lone parent are recent immigrants. Less than one in twelve families in Victoria (7%) are recent immigrant families (not shown in Table C.3).

Most of the recent immigrant families (92%) consist of married or common-law couples, while 8 per cent are lone-parent families. This is somewhat different from Canadian-born families. Seventeen per cent of Canadian-born families are lone-parent families, and 83 per cent are married or common-law couples.

When families are grouped by the age of the oldest member, the differences appear to be greatest for younger families. The proportion of lone parent families declines with age among the Canadian-born families, whereas among recent immigrant families it does not change much with age.

Table C.3: Family structure, by age of oldest spouse or lone parent, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996 (percentage distribution)

	Canadian-born families	Recent immigrant families
All ages (including ages 15-24)		
couples with or without children	83%	92%
lone parents	17%	8%
total number	54,260	6,040
25-44		
couples with or without children	78%	92%
lone parents	22%	8%
total number	25,260	3,400
45 and over		
couples with or without children	88%	94%
lone parents	12%	6%
total number	27,510	2,500

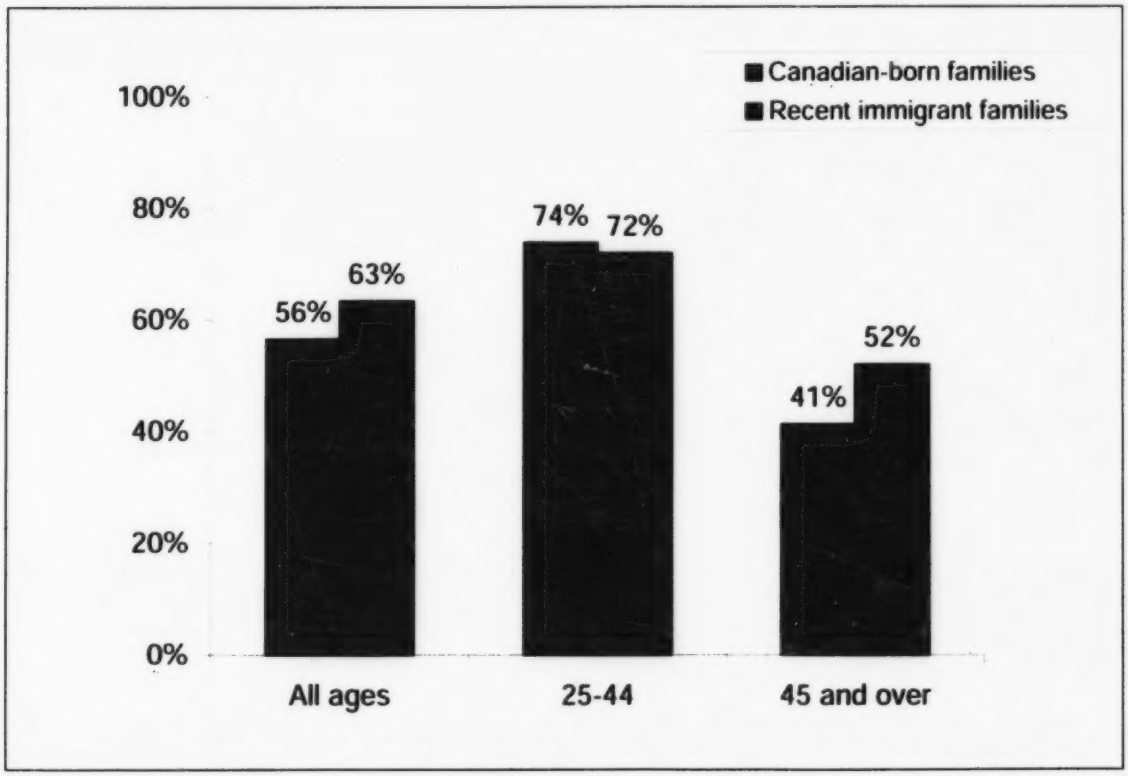
Recent immigrant families more likely to have children in the home

A significant difference between recent immigrant and Canadian-born families is in the proportion of families with never-married children at home. Almost two out of three recent immigrant families (63%) have at least one never-married child of any age living at home. By comparison, over one-half of Canadian-born families (56%) have children at home.

When families are grouped by the age of the oldest member, the source of this difference appears to be older families. Among young families, 72 per cent of recent-immigrant families have children at home, compared to 74 per cent of Canadian-born families. Older families show larger differences, with one-half of recent immigrant families (52%) having children in the home, compared to two in five Canadian-born families (41%).

The higher proportion of older recent immigrant families with children living at home could be due to a number of factors, including a greater likelihood that older children will stay longer in the parental home, as well as possible differences in the timing of childbirth and level of fertility. Some of the children in older immigrant families may be adults living with and possibly supporting one or two ageing parents.

Figure C.2: Families with never-married children living at home, as a percentage of all families, by age of family, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996



Two or more children in the home more common

Whereas Table C.3 and Figure C.2 give information about all families, Table C.4 describes families with children only. Figure C.2 gives the number of families with children living at home as a percentage of all families, and Table C.4 subdivides families with children by the number of children. Thus, the percentages shown in Table C.4 add to 100, except for small discrepancies due to rounding.

Recent immigrant families with children are somewhat more likely to have more than one child in the home than Canadian-born families with children. Forty-six per cent of recent immigrant families with children have two children, compared to 41 per cent of Canadian-born families, and 16 per cent have three or more children, compared to 13 per cent of Canadian-born families.

There is almost no difference in the number of children born to younger recent immigrant and Canadian-born families with children. One-half (49%) of recent immigrant families whose older spouse or lone parent is over 45 years have two children, compared to one-third (35%) of Canadian-born families. The proportion of families in this age group that has three or more children at home is also larger among recent immigrant families.

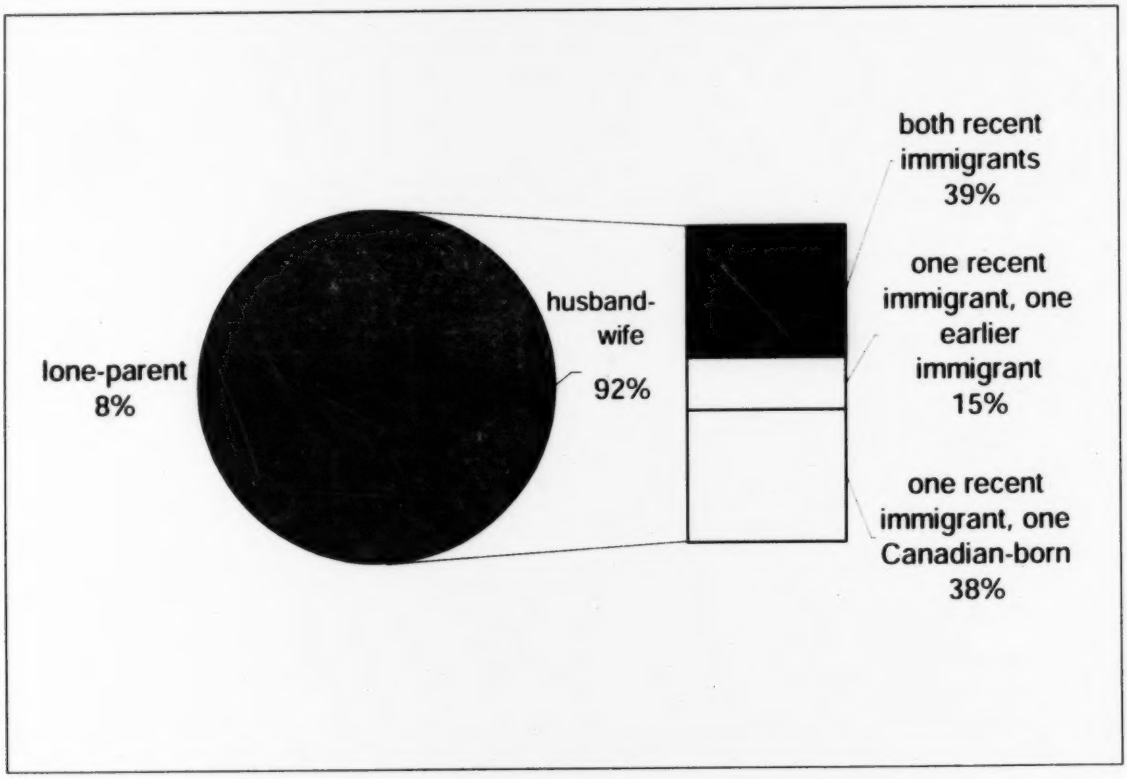
Table C.4: Families with never-married children living at home, by number of children and age of family, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996 (percentage distribution)

	Canadian-born families	Recent immigrant families
All ages (including ages 15-24)		
One child	46%	38%
Two children	41%	46%
Three or more children	13%	16%
25-44		
One child	39%	37%
Two children	45%	46%
Three or more children	16%	17%
45 and over		
One child	55%	36%
Two children	35%	49%
Three or more children	10%	15%

Most recent immigrants married to recent immigrants and Canadian-born

Two in five of the 6,000 recent-immigrant families (39%) are comprised of a recently immigrated husband married to or living common-law with a recently immigrated wife, with or without children. The same proportion (38%) consists of a recent immigrant paired with a Canadian-born spouse. An additional 15 per cent of families have a recently immigrated spouse and a spouse who immigrated earlier, before 1981.

Figure C.3: Recent immigrant families by type, showing immigrant status of spouses, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996



Of the families of immigrants who landed before 1981, more than one-half of families consists of an immigrant paired with a Canadian-born spouse (53%, not shown in Figure C.3), a larger proportion than that for recent immigrants.

When recent immigrants enter into conjugal unions, they are very likely to do so as a legally married couple. Just 7 per cent of recent-immigrant couples live common-law, compared with one out of seven (15%) Canadian-born couples.

The low incidence of common-law relationships is in part a result of immigration laws, which do not recognise common-law relationships. Common-law partners have to be admitted separately as individuals, whereas a marital couple may enter as a unit. Differences in attitudes towards common-law relationships may also play a role.

Table C.5: Couples in common-law relationships as a proportion of all husband-wife couples, by age of older partner, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996

	Canadian-born families	Recent immigrant families
All ages	15%	7%
15-24	73%	n.a.
25-44	22%	7%
45 and over	7%	6%

Households

7,800 recent immigrant households in Victoria Metropolitan Area

Defining "Recent immigrant household"
A household is a group of persons sharing living accommodation. In a recent immigrant household, one or more of the members aged 15 years or over is a recent immigrant, having immigrated to Canada between 1981 and 1996. All recent immigrants of 15 years or over are members of recent immigrant households.

Recent immigrant households are subdivided by period of landing in the same way as individuals. A household with one or more persons over 15 years of age who immigrated during 1991-1996 is a 1990s immigrant household. If all persons of 15 and over immigrated during 1991-1996, the household is called a "1990s immigrants only" household. If there are members of 15 and over who belong to other groups, the household is called "1990s immigrants with others". The "others" are immigrants who landed before 1991 or Canadian-born persons or both. A 1980s immigrant household includes at least one person who immigrated during the 1980s, and no persons who immigrated during 1991-1996.

Defining "Canadian-born household"
A Canadian-born household is a household in which all members aged 15 years or over were born in Canada.

Defining "Earlier immigrant household"
An earlier immigrant household includes one or more persons who immigrated in or before 1980 and does not include any persons who immigrated after 1980.

Together, these three groups include all households, as households consisting entirely of non-permanent residents are not considered here. The recent immigrant family concept is the most encompassing of the three, and the Canadian-born household the narrowest. Many earlier immigrant households (more than half of such households in Victoria) include Canadian-born persons, including children born in Canada who have passed the age of 14.

Table C.6: Households by immigrant status of members of 15 years and over, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996

	Number of households	Share of all households
Canadian-born households	89,300	69%
Earlier immigrant households	32,000	25%
Recent immigrant households	7,800	6%
of which:		
1980s immigrants	4,660	3.6%
1990s immigrants with others	1,870	1.4%
with Canadian-born only	*960*	0.7%
with other immigrants (with or without Canadian-born)	*910*	0.7%
1990s immigrants only	1,240	1.0%
Total	129,000	100%

In Victoria in 1996, there were 7,770 recent-immigrant households - households in which at least one member of 15 years or older was a recent immigrant. These made up 6 per cent of the total number of households in Victoria.

Two in five recent immigrant households (3,110) have at least one member who immigrated during the 1990s. In 40 per cent of these households (1,240) all members are very recent immigrants. In the other such households, recent immigrants live together with immigrants who landed before 1991, with Canadian-born persons, or with both (1870 households).

Over two-thirds of households (69%) in Victoria comprise only Canadian-born persons. The remaining 25 per cent of all households include earlier immigrants but no recent immigrants. More than one half of these earlier immigrant households also include persons born in Canada, often children born after immigration.

Recent immigrant households more likely to be larger than a nuclear family

The majority of households consist of families. Families may live alone (nuclear family households), with other families (multiple family households), or with non-family persons which may or may not be relatives (expanded-family households). All other households are non-family households consisting of one or more persons who may be related by blood or not.

A recent immigrant household is much more likely than a Canadian-born household to consist of one or more families. More than four out of five recent immigrant households (81%) are family households, compared to three out of five Canadian-born households (60%).

Two-fifths of Canadian-born households are non-family households, and most of these consist of a person living alone (33% of households). Among recent immigrant households, persons living alone are relatively rare (13%).

Most households consist of a nuclear family, i.e. a couple with or without children, or a lone parent with one or more children living together. Immigrant households are more likely to consist of just a nuclear family than Canadian-born households.

A significant proportion of recent immigrant households consists of a nuclear family living with other persons (11%). In most of these expanded-family households the non-family person or persons are related to the family. Expanded-family households are not unknown among Canadian-born, but they occur much less frequently.

Households of recent immigrants are also much more likely than Canadian-born households to consist of two or more families. These families may be related to each other, as for example a married couple living with the family of one of their children. Multiple family households are most common among households combining very recent immigrants with other Canadians. On the other hand, households of earlier immigrants and Canadian-born persons are not likely to consist of two or more families. Many new immigrants clearly live in households that are different from the standard nuclear family.

Table C.7: Household structure, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996 (percentage distribution)

Households	Family households				Non-family households		Number of households
	All family households	Nuclear families	Expanded families	Multiple families	Single person	Multiple persons	
Canadian-born	60%	55%	4%	1%	33%	7%	89,300
Earlier immigrants	69%	63%	6%	1%	26%	4%	32,000
Recent immigrants	81%	64%	11%	5%	13%	6%	7,800
1980s immigrants	78%	*67%*	*9%*	*2%*	15%	7%	4,660
1990s immigrants with others	94%	*62%*	*21%*	*11%*	0%	6%	1,870
1990s immigrants only	72%	*60%*	*6%*	*5%*	24%	4%	1,240
All households	63%	57%	5%	1%	30%	7%	129,000

Recent immigrant households tend to be large

Table C.8: Size of households, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996 (percentage distribution)

Households	Number of persons in household			Estimated size
	1 to 3	4 or 5	6 or more	
Canadian-born	83%	16%	1%	2.3
Earlier immigrants	81%	16%	2%	2.4
Recent immigrants	62%	32%	7%	3.2
1980s immigrants	*63%*	*32%*	*5%*	*3.0*
1990s immigrants with others	*54%*	*34%*	*12%*	*3.7*
1990s immigrants only	*67%*	*26%*	*7%*	*2.9*
All households	81%	17%	2%	2.4

Size is estimated assuming an average of 4.5 for households with 4 or 5 members and 7 for households with 6 or more members. For sizes 1 to 3 the actual number of households with each size was used in the calculation.

Recent immigrant households are more likely to be large in size than Canadian-born and earlier immigrant households. Approximately three out of five recent immigrant households (62%) have one to three members, compared to over four-fifths of Canadian-born households (83%). Thus, the proportion of households with four or more members is over twice as large (39%) among recent immigrant households as among Canadian-born households (17%).

Most of the larger recent immigrant households have four or five members. Households where very recent immigrants live together with other Canadians are more likely than other households to be very large. One out of eight such households (12%) have six or more members. The share of very large households among Canadian-born households is only one per cent.

Table C.9: Proportion of persons spending time on unpaid care of children and elders, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996

	Care of children	Care of elders
Women		
Canadian-born	36%	19%
Immigrated before 1981	28%	19%
Immigrated 1981-1990	47%	17%
Immigrated 1991-1996	51%	12%
Men		
Canadian-born	29%	13%
Immigrated before 1981	27%	15%
Immigrated 1981-1990	37%	10%
Immigrated 1991-1996	45%	10%

The proportion of recent immigrants of 15 years or over reporting time spent on unpaid care of children is higher than the proportion of Canadian-born persons. On the other hand, the share of recent immigrants spending time on a regular basis to look after elder persons is smaller than the share of Canadian-born persons.

These numbers reflect differences in family and household structure. Families with children are more numerous among recent immigrants. The incidence of care of elders is lower among recent immigrants, even though extended families are more common. This suggests that recent immigrants have other reasons than care of elders for living in households larger than a nuclear family.

PART D: PARTICIPATION IN THE ECONOMY

Participation in the labour market

Labour force participation of men similar

A person is in the labour force if he or she is employed or actively looking for work. Persons not in the labour force may be attending school, raising children, in retirement, or they may be unable or unwilling to seek employment for other reasons.

The rate of labour force participation varies by age and gender. Thus, differences in labour force participation between immigrants and the Canadian-born may be a result of differences in age-gender composition. As well, immigrants and the Canadian-born may show similar behaviour in some age-gender groups, and different behaviour in other groups. For both these reasons it is of interest to examine labour force participation by age and gender.

Table D.1: Labour force participation rates of persons aged 15 to 64 by age and gender, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996

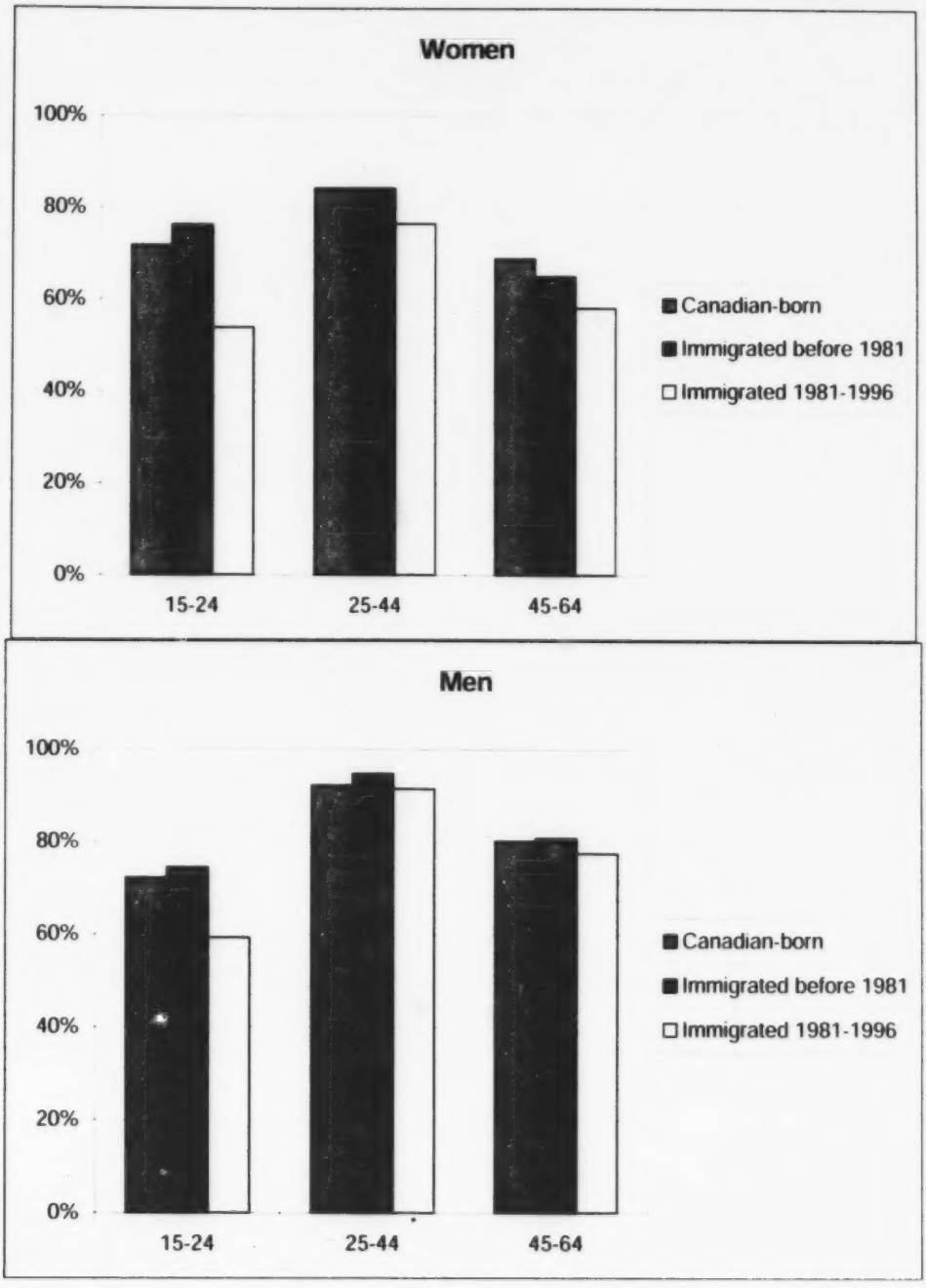
	15-24	25-44	45-64	15-64	Labour Force
Women					
Canadian-born	72%	84%	69%	77%	62,260
Immigrated before 1981	76%	84%	65%	71%	9,930
Immigrated 1981-1996	54%	76%	58%	68%	4,110
Men					
Canadian-born	72%	92%	80%	84%	65,730
Immigrated before 1981	74%	95%	81%	85%	11,360
Immigrated 1981-1996	59%	91%	78%	82%	4,030

	Participation rate		Labour force	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Age 15-64				
Immigrated 1981-1990	70%	83%	2,390	2,330
Immigrated 1991-1996	66%	80%	1,720	1,700

Recently immigrated men aged 25 to 64 participate in the labour market at rates that are very similar to those of the Canadian-born. However, recently immigrated women participate in the labour market at lower rates than the Canadian-born, but their participation increases with years in Canada.

The overall participation rate of men is only slightly lower for immigrants who landed during 1991 to 1996 than for those who landed in the 1980s and before. Thus, adjustment to the labour market appears to be virtually immediate for men.

Figure D.1: Labour force participation rates by age and gender, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996



Similar patterns for different levels of education

Just as labour force participation varies by age and gender, so it also varies by level of education. To better understand the reasons for differences between immigrants and the Canadian-born, participation rates are shown for different levels of education. Level of education is as reported by respondents, and pertains to the time of the census.

Table D.2: Labour force participation rates of persons 15 to 64 years old, by level of education and gender, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996

	No high school diploma	High school diploma	Post-secondary diploma or degree	Total
Women				
Canadian-born	58%	80%	84%	77%
Immigrated before 1981	52%	76%	76%	71%
Immigrated 1981-1996	52%	68%	76%	68%
Men				
Canadian-born	70%	88%	90%	84%
Immigrated before 1981	77%	86%	87%	85%
Immigrated 1981-1996	66%	77%	89%	82%

	Women	Men
All education levels		
Immigrated 1981-1990	70%	83%
Immigrated 1991-1996	66%	80%

If persons are ranked by level of education, the higher the level of education the greater the proportion of people who participate in the labour market. This observation holds for the Canadian-born as well as for immigrants.

Recent immigrants participate in the labour market at a lower rate than the Canadian-born with the same education. For instance, women who recently immigrated and have a high school diploma have a participation rate of 68 per cent, whereas their Canadian-born counterparts have a rate of 80 per cent. This difference of 12 percentage points in the labour force participation rates of women is about the same as that for men with the same educational qualifications. Among persons with a post-secondary diploma or degree, there is a larger gap between recent immigrants and the Canadian-born for women than for men.

Over time, the behaviour of immigrants converges to that of Canadian-born persons, but differences remain, more so among women.

Figure D.2: Labour force participation rates of persons 15 to 64 years old, by level of education and gender, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996

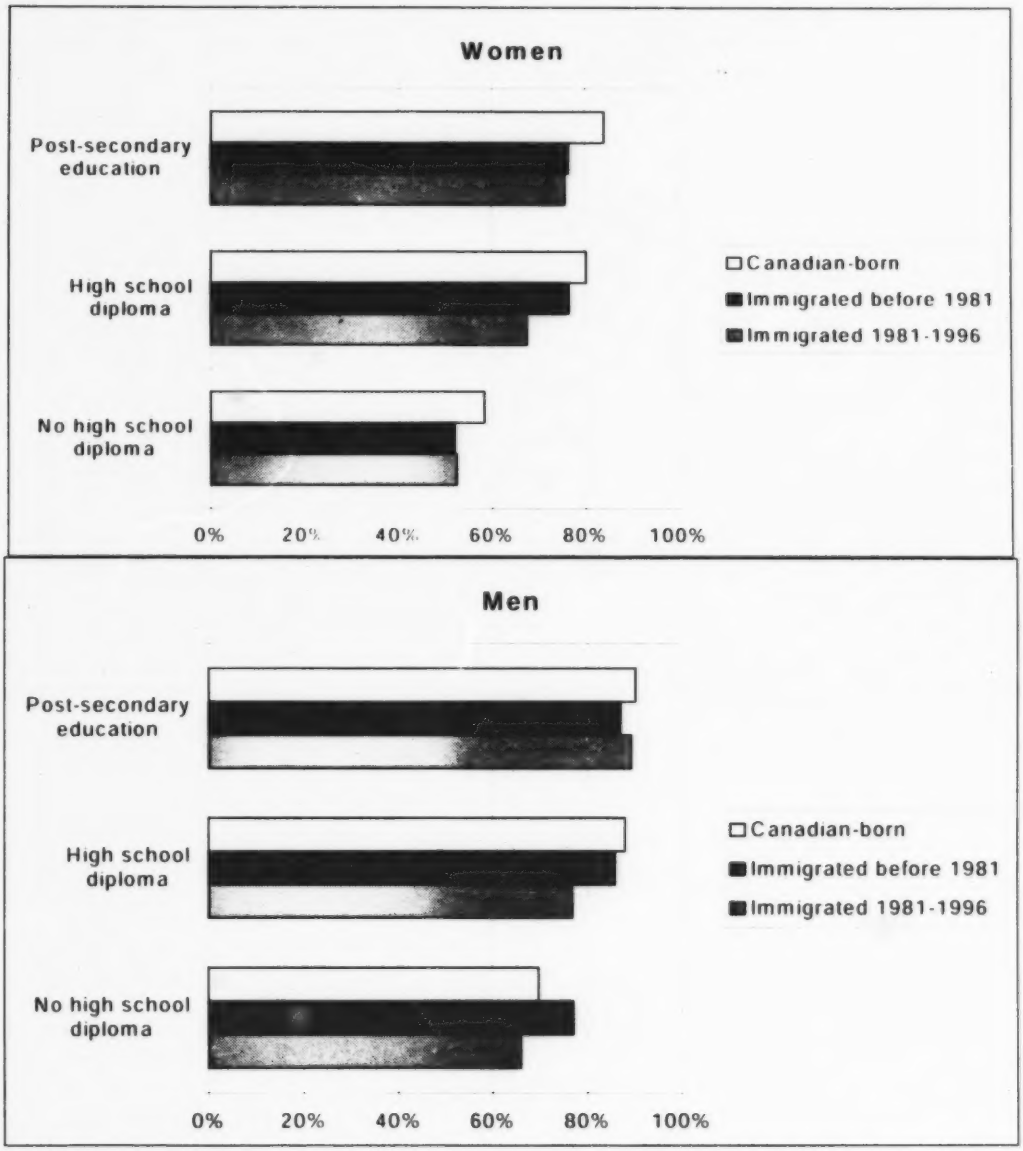
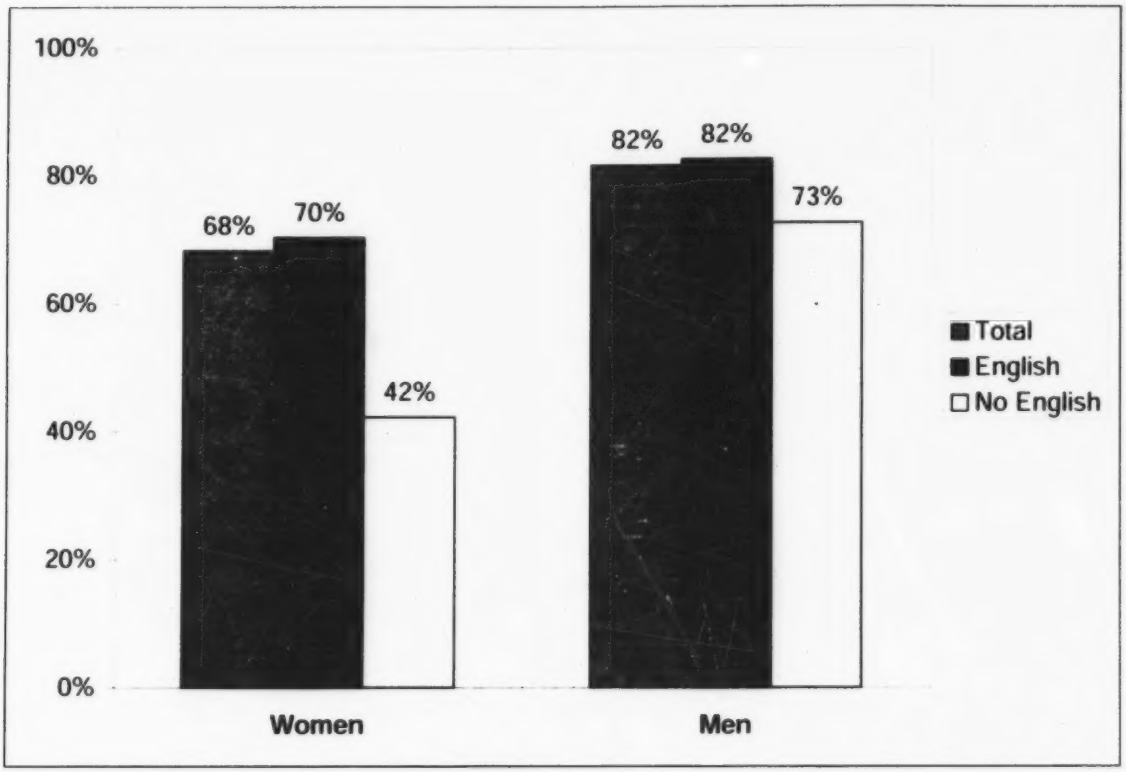


Figure D.3: Labour force participation and knowledge of English of recent immigrants, persons 15 to 64 years old, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996



Most immigrants can converse in either English or French when they immigrate to Canada. At the time of the 1996 census, the large majority of both men (95%) and women (92%) aged 15 to 64 who immigrated between 1981 and 1996 and settled in Victoria speak English (not shown in Figure D.3). Women who do not speak English are not nearly as active in the labour market as those who do. It is hardly surprising that knowledge of English is strongly associated with labour market behaviour. In fact, for men the differences are rather small.

Labour force participation rates of recent immigrants are lower than they would be if they all had command of English – as measured by the difference between the second and first bars in the chart. For recent immigrants, lack of English reduces the labour force participation rate by 2 per cent in the case of women (68% compared to 70%) and by less than 1 per cent for men. Thus, lack of knowledge of English accounts for a small but definite part of the difference between the most recent immigrants and the Canadian-born.

Most immigrants who do not speak English at the time of immigration learn the language after arrival. Thus, lack of knowledge of English becomes less important as a barrier to labour force entry with prolonged stay in Canada. It remains a hurdle, but it affects fewer people.

Risk of unemployment somewhat higher during initial years

Like labour force participation, unemployment varies by age and gender, and also by level of education. In this section, these two aspects are examined in turn as the unemployment experience of immigrants and persons born in Canada is compared. Readers are reminded that differences in unemployment between groups may be related to a number of factors, and not only the one shown in a particular table.

Table D.3: Unemployment rates of persons aged 15 to 64 by age and gender, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996

	15-24	25-44	45-64	15-64	Unemployed
Women					
Canadian-born	14%	6%	5%	7%	4,540
Immigrated before 1981	n.a.	5%	5%	5%	530
Immigrated 1981-1996	20%	10%	7%	11%	450
Men					
Canadian-born	14%	8%	6%	9%	5,650
Immigrated before 1981	n.a.	7%	5%	6%	700
Immigrated 1981-1996	15%	9%	9%	10%	410

	Unemployment rate		Unemployed	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Age 15-64				
Immigrated 1981-1990	10%	11%	240	270
Immigrated 1991-1996	13%	9%	220	150

Immigrants are more likely to experience unemployment during their initial years in Canada than those who have been in the country for a longer period of time, but in Victoria this is a minor phenomenon, especially for men. For instance, men who landed after 1981 experience unemployment rates from 1 to 3 percentage points higher than the Canadian-born, depending on their age, and for women the difference ranges from 2 to 6 per cent.

The unemployment experience of recent immigrants in Victoria is not typical of other Canadian cities. In the three major immigration centres, the most recent immigrants are twice as likely to be unemployed as the Canadian-born.

Table D.4: Unemployment rates by level of education, persons aged 15 to 64 years, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996

	No high school diploma	High school diploma	Post-secondary diploma or degree	Total
Women				
Canadian-born	10%	9%	5%	7%
Immigrated before 1981	11%	5%	4%	5%
Immigrated 1981-1996	16%	12%	9%	11%
Men				
Canadian-born	14%	9%	6%	9%
Immigrated before 1981	11%	8%	5%	6%
Immigrated 1981-1996	15%	16%	8%	10%

	Women	Men
All education levels		
Immigrated 1981-1990	10%	11%
Immigrated 1991-1996	13%	9%

Unemployment rates of recent immigrants are higher than rates of the Canadian-born across all levels of education, by 3 to 6 percentage points in the case of women and 1 to 7 percentage points in the case of men. Overall, the unemployment experience of recently immigrated women is slightly more pronounced than that of recently immigrated men.

Share of men and women with jobs increases with length of stay

Table D.5: Employment ratio of persons aged 15-64 by age and gender, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996

	15-24	25-44	45-64	15-64	Employed
Women					
Canadian-born	62%	79%	66%	71%	57,730
Immigrated before 1981	66%	80%	62%	68%	9,400
Immigrated 1981-1990	50%	71%	52%	63%	2,150
Immigrated 1991-1996	38%	65%	54%	57%	1,510
Men					
Canadian-born	62%	85%	75%	77%	60,080
Immigrated before 1981	68%	88%	76%	80%	10,660
Immigrated 1981-1990	45%	85%	73%	73%	2,070
Immigrated 1991-1996	58%	80%	69%	73%	1,550

More than one-half (57%) of women of working age who immigrated during 1991 to 1996 are employed, and almost three-quarters (73%) of men. The employment ratio of women who landed during the 1980s is higher than that of the most recently immigrated women, indicating that adjustment takes place. For men the overall employment rate is the same for those who landed in the 1980s and those who landed in the 1990s, but this is a result of progressive adjustment for men over 25 and the opposite for young men. In Victoria, recently immigrated men over 25 years of age adjust quickly to the labour market.

The jobs of recent immigrants

Part-time jobs more common for very recent immigrants

Part-time employment is defined as having worked less than 30 hours per week during most of the weeks worked in the year 1995. Because the information relates to the entire year 1995, only persons who landed before 1995 are included among the most recent immigrants.

The share of part-time employment for the 15-64 age group is the average of the shares for the three age groups, weighted by the relative size of each age group. Because the age-specific rates vary so much, differences in age structure can have a major effect on the overall rate. The fact that persons who immigrated before the 1980s are concentrated in the higher age groups gives them a low share of part-time employment compared to other groups. When the comparison is made for each age group, it becomes clear that these earlier immigrants are not very different from other groups with respect to the rate of part-time employment.

Table D.6: Part-time employment as a share of employment, by age and gender, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1995

	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	15-64
Women				
Canadian-born	57%	31%	29%	36%
Immigrated before 1981	57%	29%	31%	31%
Immigrated 1981-1990	56%	34%	29%	37%
Immigrated 1991-1994	66%	35%	36%	40%
Men				
Canadian-born	49%	11%	11%	18%
Immigrated before 1981	39%	9%	12%	12%
Immigrated 1981-1990	49%	12%	10%	17%
Immigrated 1991-1994	57%	14%	18%	20%

The proportion of employed Canadian-born who work part-time varies considerably by age and gender. About one-half of employed young adults work part-time, mainly because many also attend school. About three in ten employed women aged 25 to 64 work part-time, while for men the share is 11 per cent.

Part-time employment is as common among immigrants who landed in the 1980s as among the Canadian-born. However, immigrants who landed in the 1990s are more likely to be employed part-time than Canadian-born or those who have lived in the country for a longer period of time. This occurs in all age groups. This suggests that part-time employment is a way for some new immigrants to enter the work force.

Many employed recent immigrants in sales and services occupations

Occupations are subdivided into six broad groups based on the 1991 Standard Occupational Classification, as follows:

(1) Sales and services	Sales and service occupations
(2) Processing	Occupations unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities
	Occupations unique to primary industry
(3) Administrative	Business, finance and administrative occupations
(4) Management and social	Occupations in social science, education, government services and religion
	Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport
	Management occupations
(5) Trades, transport	Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations
(6) Health, science	Health occupations
	Natural and applied sciences and related occupations

In examining the jobs of immigrants, the focus is on persons 25 to 64 years old. Younger people are not considered since many of them are still in school, and their jobs tend to be short-term and part-time and are less likely to be related to their education and career choices than the jobs of older adults.

Table D.7: Occupations of employed women and men aged 25 to 64, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996 (percentage distribution)

	Sales and services	Processing	Adminis-trative	Management and social	Trades, transport	Health, science	Total employed
Women							
Canadian-born	25%	2%	35%	23%	1%	14%	47,160
Immigrated before 1981	27%	2%	29%	26%	1%	15%	9,090
Immigrated 1981-1990	39%	4%	23%	18%	2%	13%	1,900
Immigrated 1991-1996	44%	5%	16%	22%	2%	11%	1,310
Men							
Canadian-born	22%	6%	11%	25%	22%	14%	49,490
Immigrated before 1981	20%	6%	9%	29%	20%	17%	10,330
Immigrated 1981-1990	26%	8%	7%	28%	15%	16%	1,800
Immigrated 1991-1996	35%	7%	9%	22%	13%	14%	1,320

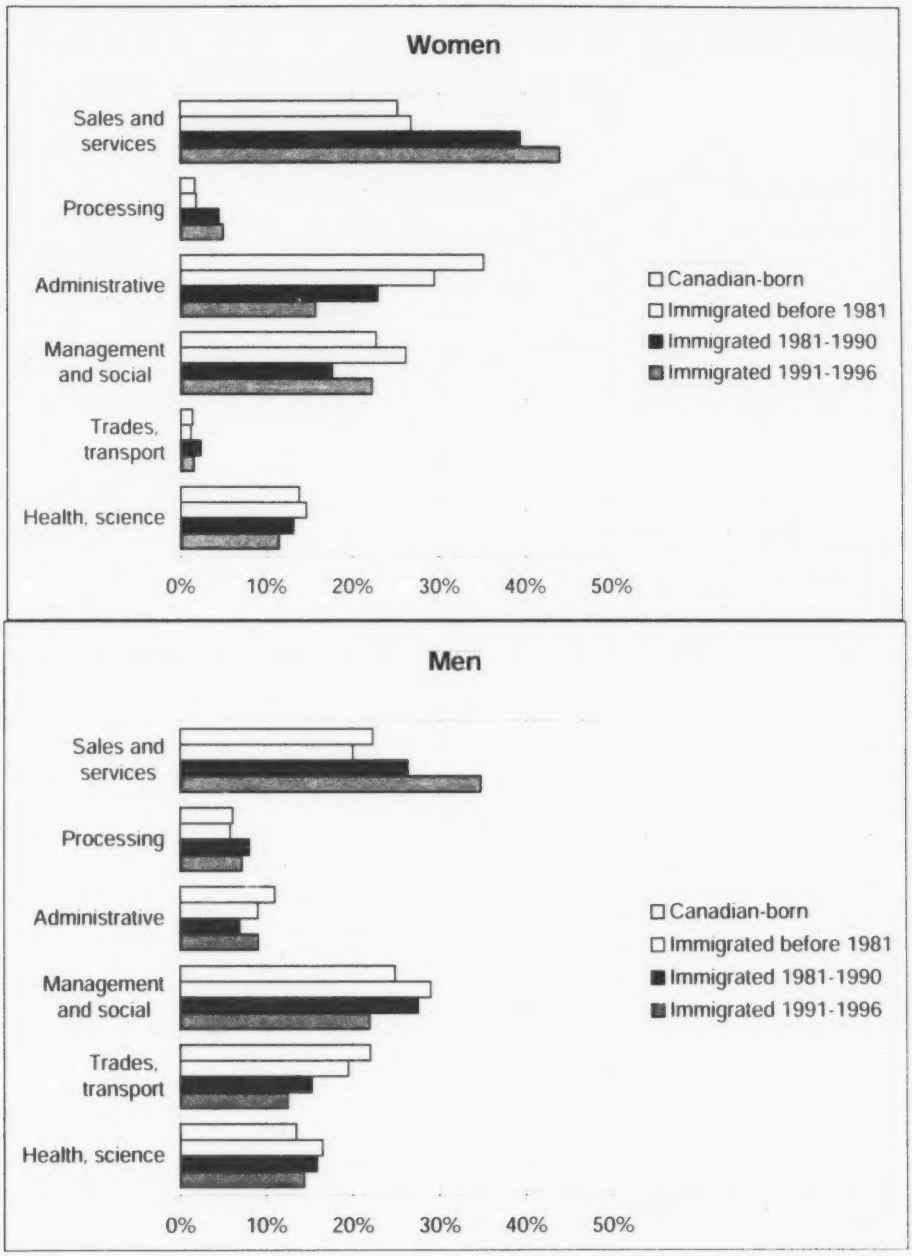
Employed immigrants are far more likely than their Canadian-born counterparts to work in sales and service jobs, more so if they immigrated during the 1990s. Over two in five (44%) employed immigrant women who have been in the country for 5 years or less are employed in sales and service jobs, compared to one-quarter (25%) of Canadian-born women. More than one-third (35%) of the jobs of very recently immigrated men are in sales and service occupations, as compared to less than one-quarter (22%) of those of Canadian-born men.

By contrast, administrative occupations, which are favoured by the Canadian-born, do not account for a large share of employment of recent immigrants. In trades and transport occupations, the share of employed recently immigrated men is low. Immigrants are evenly represented in the health and science, managerial and social professions.

There are probably many factors that contribute to these patterns, including the selection of immigrants and their level and field of education. But the choice of occupation by immigrants also

reflects adjustment to the economy and barriers to entry into professions and trades. Many new immigrants probably find it easier to obtain employment in sales and services jobs than in other occupations.

Figure D.4: Occupations of employed women and men aged 25 to 64, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996 (percentage distribution)



Three in ten employed very recent immigrants in hospitality and other services

Industries are subdivided into six broad groups based on the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification, as follows:

Manufacturing	Primary industries and manufacturing
Construction & Transportation	Construction, transportation and storage, and communications
Trade	Wholesale and retail trade
Business services	Finance, insurance, real estate operators and insurance, and business services
Public sector	Government services, education and health services
Hospitality and other services	Accommodation, food and beverage industries, and other services

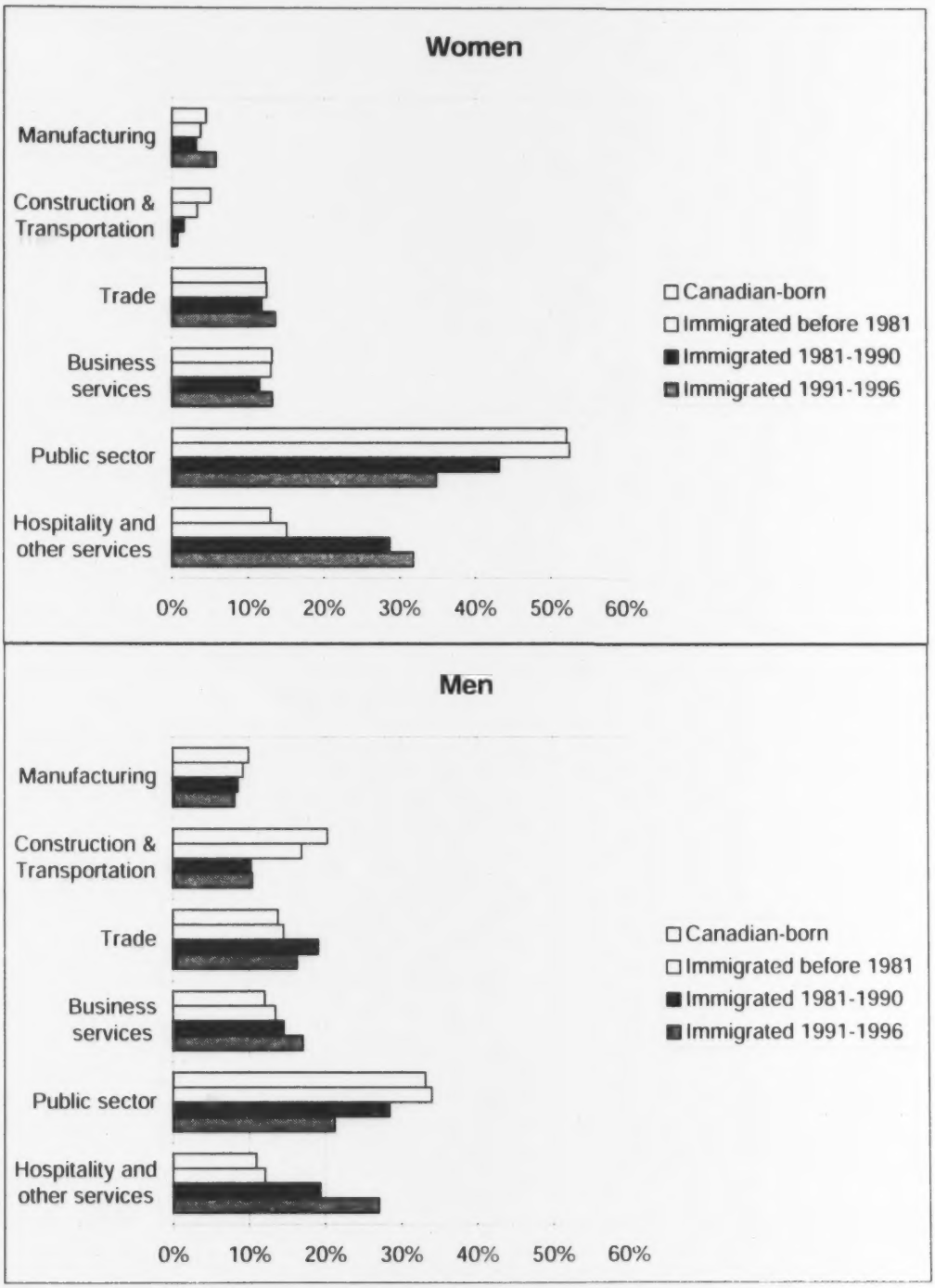
In the greater Victoria area, a large proportion of the jobs of recent immigrants aged 25 to 64 are in hospitality and other services. By contrast, construction and transportation account for a lower share of jobs of recent immigrants than of the Canadian-born. As well, while one-third of the jobs of very recently immigrated women are in the public sector (35%), an even larger share of the jobs of Canadian-born women is in this sector (52%). The industrial distribution of employment of earlier immigrants is closer to that of the Canadian-born.

Table D.8: Employment by industry, persons aged 25 to 64, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996 (percentage distribution)

	Manufacturing	Construction & Transportation	Trade	Business services	Public sector	Hospitality and other services
Women						
Canadian-born	4%	5%	12%	13%	52%	13%
Immigrated before 1981	4%	3%	12%	13%	52%	15%
Immigrated 1981-1990	3%	2%	12%	12%	43%	29%
Immigrated 1991-1996	6%	1%	14%	13%	35%	32%
Men						
Canadian-born	10%	20%	14%	12%	33%	11%
Immigrated before 1981	9%	17%	14%	13%	34%	12%
Immigrated 1981-1990	9%	10%	19%	14%	28%	19%
Immigrated 1991-1996	8%	10%	16%	17%	21%	27%

The jobs of young Canadian-born people in the Victoria area - who, like recent immigrants, are recent entrants into the labour market - are more concentrated in the trade sector and in hospitality and other services than those of recent immigrants aged 25 to 64. Each of these two industry groups provides between one-quarter and two-fifths of the jobs of Canadian-born aged 15 to 24 (not shown in Table D.8). By contrast, the business services and public sectors each account for a larger share of employment of recent immigrants than of the young Canadian-born. Thus, the hospitality and other services sector is a major employer of young people born in Canada as well as of recent immigrants. Wholesale and retail trade is much less significant as a source of jobs for recent immigrants than it is for young Canadians.

Figure D.5: Employment by industry, persons aged 25 to 64, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996 (percentage distribution)



Skill requirements of jobs of recently immigrated women lower

The tables and charts in this and the next section show the shares of jobs grouped by four levels of skill, level 4 being the highest and level 1 the lowest, as follows:

Level 1: Short work demonstration; no formal education required.
Level 2: Secondary school plus a period of specific job training.
Level 3: College level education or trade apprenticeship required.
Level 4: University education required.

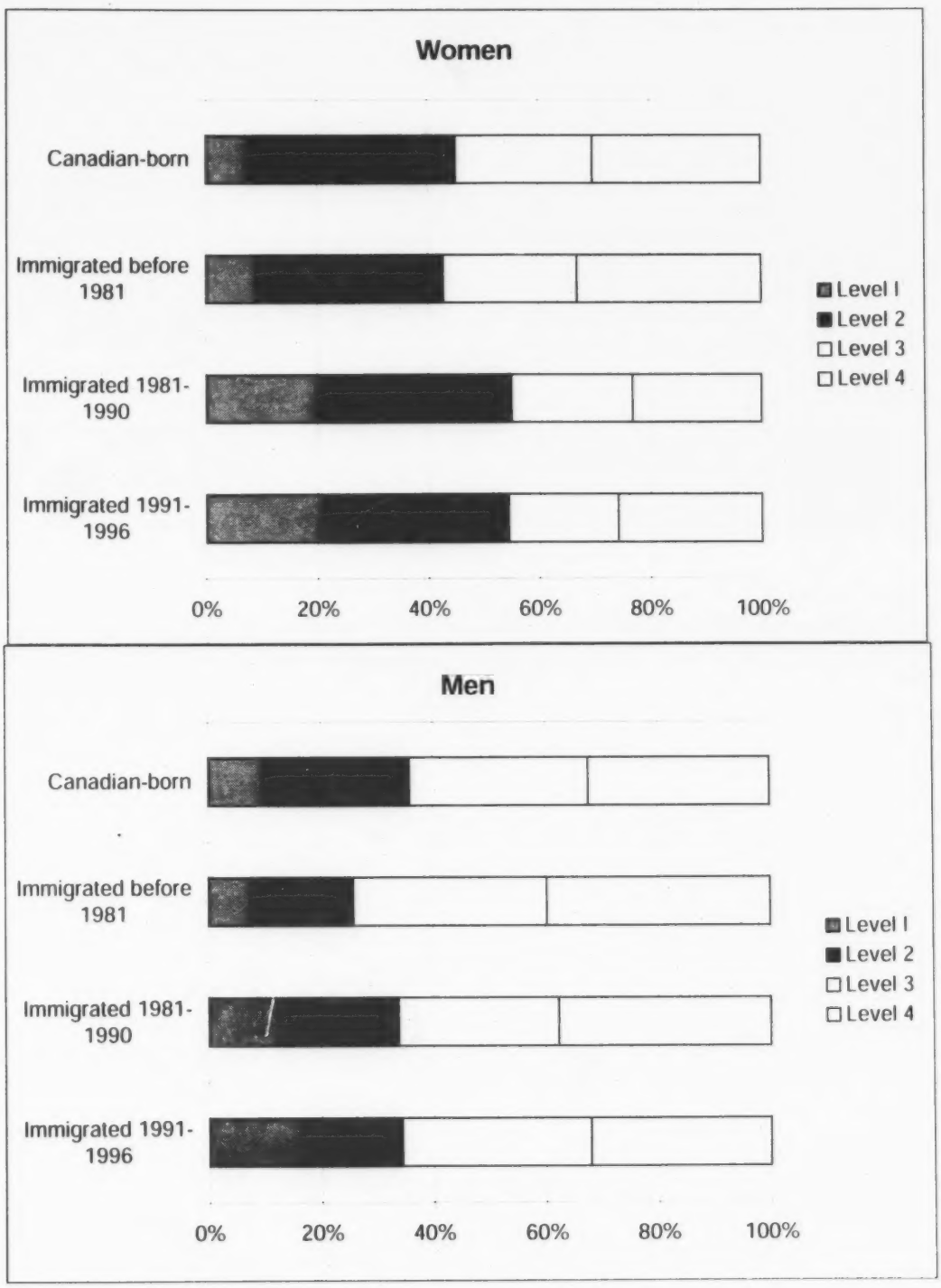
Table D.9: Employment by level of skill, women and men aged 25 to 64, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996 (percentage distribution)

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Women				
Canadian-born	7%	38%	25%	30%
Immigrated before 1981	9%	34%	24%	33%
Immigrated 1981-1990	20%	35%	22%	23%
Immigrated 1991-1996	21%	34%	20%	26%
Men				
Canadian-born	10%	26%	32%	32%
Immigrated before 1981	7%	18%	35%	40%
Immigrated 1981-1990	12%	21%	28%	38%
Immigrated 1991-1996	16%	18%	34%	32%

The jobs of recent immigrants require similar (for men) or lower (for women) levels of skills than the jobs of the Canadian-born. For example, almost one in three jobs of Canadian-born and very recent immigrant men (32%) require the highest level of skill, a university education. For women, three in ten (30%) of the Canadian-born require a university education, as opposed to 26 per cent of immigrants who landed after 1990. About one-fifth of jobs of the most recent immigrants (21% for women and 16% for men) require the lowest level of skill, a share much higher than that of the Canadian-born, particularly for women.

For women, the skill content of jobs of earlier immigrants is similar to that of the Canadian-born, and for men it is higher. As with many other aspects of labour market activity and employment, this suggests the situation of immigrants improves as their stay in Canada lengthens.

Figure D.6: Employment by skill level, women and men aged 25 to 64, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996 (percentage distribution)



Education of recently immigrated women not fully utilised

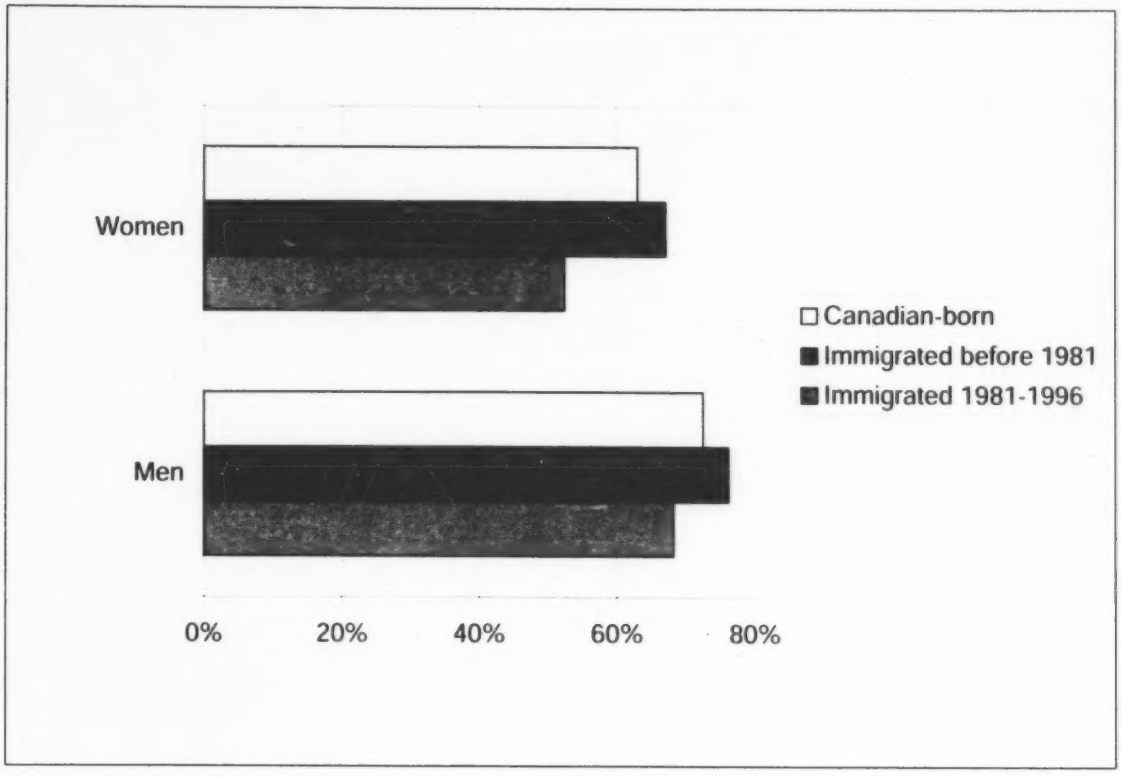
As there are differences in educational attainment between recent immigrants and the Canadian-born, the information presented above about skill levels of jobs does not directly indicate whether skills of recent immigrants are fully or less than fully employed in the economy. To do so, one has to compare the skill levels of jobs of recent immigrants and the Canadian-born for a given level of education. This is done in Table D.10 for persons holding a university degree, and can be done in the same way for other levels of educational attainment. The four skill levels are defined in the box above Table D.9.

Table D.10: Skill levels of jobs of university graduates, women and men aged 25 to 64, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996 (percentage distribution)

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Women				
Canadian-born	2%	19%	16%	63%
Immigrated before 1981	1%	16%	16%	67%
Immigrated 1981-1996	5%	24%	18%	52%
Men				
Canadian-born	3%	10%	15%	72%
Immigrated before 1981	2%	8%	14%	76%
Immigrated 1981-1996	5%	12%	15%	68%

The jobs of recently immigrated women with a university degree do not require the same level of skill as the jobs of the Canadian-born, whereas for men the skill levels are more alike. Almost two-thirds of employed Canadian-born women with a university degree (63%) have a job requiring a university degree. But one-half of employed women who immigrated after 1980 (52%) have a job at that level. Almost three-quarters of Canadian-born men with a university degree (72%) have a job requiring a university education. This is slightly lower for recently immigrated men with a university degree (68%).

Figure D.7: Proportion of workers with a university degree who have a job requiring a university education, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996



PART E: INCOME

Sources and level of income

Similar shares with income from employment

In this section, three broad sources of income are distinguished:

(1) Employment income, consisting of wages and salaries or income from self-employment;
(2) Other private income, consisting of investment income (mainly interest and dividends), retirement income and income from all other private sources; and
(3) Transfers from government, including Unemployment Insurance benefits, Canada and Quebec Pension Plan benefits, Old Age Security benefits and the Guaranteed Income Supplement, and other benefits such as workers' compensation and social assistance. Also included are the Child Tax Benefit, refunds of the Goods and Services Tax, and provincial tax credits.

A person may have income from one, two or all three sources. Income reported in the 1996 census is income for the year 1995, of persons 15 years of age and over. Most immigrants who landed during or after 1995 have not had the full year 1995 to obtain income in Canada, and are therefore not included.

Table E.1: Persons with income by source and without income, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1995 (as a percentage of the population of 15 years and over)

	No income	Employment income	Other private	Government transfers	Number of persons
Women					
Canadian-born	5%	65%	41%	61%	100,410
Immigrated before 1981	3%	47%	54%	70%	23,290
Immigrated 1981-1990	9%	62%	34%	56%	4,040
Immigrated 1991-1994	13%	66%	22%	53%	2,130
Men					
Canadian-born	3%	75%	35%	70%	91,430
Immigrated before 1981	0%	62%	51%	77%	20,280
Immigrated 1981-1990	7%	74%	29%	71%	3,270
Immigrated 1991-1994	6%	78%	26%	75%	1,710

Income from employment is the most common source of income for the Canadian-born and recent immigrants. Sixty-five per cent of Canadian-born women and 75 per cent of Canadian-born men had earnings from employment in 1995. Similar shares of recent immigrants have income from employment. For immigrants arriving in the eighties, 62 per cent of women and 74 per cent of men have employment income. For immigrants who arrived before the 1980s the proportion with employment earnings is low because they tend to be older and many are in retirement. The high share of recent immigrants with employment income reflects rapid adjustment to the Victoria labour market.

The share of recent immigrants with other private income – income from investments, pension plans etc. – is below the share of the Canadian-born and earlier immigrants. This probably reflects the relatively young age of most recent immigrants, and lower savings related to the cost of and income loss associated with moving to a different country.

The proportions of men and women reporting transfers of government as a source of income are similar between the Canadian-born and recent immigrants, being somewhat higher for men and lower for women. The high proportion of earlier immigrants receiving transfers from government reflects the high share of seniors in this group, who generally receive Old Age Security and Canada and Quebec Pension Plan benefits.

Average income increases with length of stay

In Tables E.2 and E.3 in this section on sources and level of income, average income refers to income of persons with income, and excludes persons who report no income. The proportion of persons who report no income is given in Table E.1. In the next section on the distribution of income, which includes tables E.5 and E.6, average income refers to income of all persons, families or households, including those with no income.

Table E.2: Level of income and distribution of income by source, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1995

	Average income of persons with income	Income by source (percent of total)		
		Employment income	Other private income	Government transfers
Women				
Canadian-born	$22,300	68%	16%	16%
Immigrated before 1981	$23,300	52%	25%	23%
Immigrated 1981-1990	$18,500	67%	20%	13%
Immigrated 1991-1994	$16,900	70%	17%	13%
Men				
Canadian-born	$32,700	73%	16%	11%
Immigrated before 1981	$36,300	64%	21%	15%
Immigrated 1981-1990	$28,200	75%	16%	9%
Immigrated 1991-1994	$24,500	78%	14%	8%

Among persons who reported having income during the year 1995, the average income of recent immigrants is lower than that of other Canadians. For very recent immigrants, average income is about three-quarters of that of the Canadian-born; those who immigrated during the 1980s have reached 83 per cent and 86 per cent of that level for women and men respectively. Earlier immigrants have surpassed the average income of people born in Canada. The relative levels and patterns are approximately the same for both genders, while average income of men is about 50 per cent higher than that of women. Among the reasons for the difference in income between men and women are lower labour force participation and higher incidence of part-time work among women than among men, as shown in Part D.

Earnings from employment make up a somewhat higher proportion of income of recently immigrated men than of men born in Canada, and the share of other private income is similar. Government transfers make up a somewhat lower share of income of recent immigrants than of the Canadian-born.

Table E.3: Wage and salary income of persons who worked mostly full-time, as a percentage of the overall average, Victoria Metropolitan Area 1995

	Amount	Percentage of overall average
Canadian-born	$33,000	99%
Immigrated before 1981	$37,400	113%
Immigrated 1981-1990	$28,000	84%
Immigrated 1991-1994	$23,900	72%
All who worked mostly full time	$33,200	100%

The wages and salaries earned by recent immigrants who worked mostly full-time in 1995 are below the Victoria average, but for those who landed during the 1980s the difference is smaller (16%) as compared to the very recent immigrants (28%). Differences in the skill level of jobs may play a role here. As well, annual earnings depend on whether a person was employed throughout the year or not. It is likely that recent immigrants more often than the Canadian-born do not have steady, year-round jobs. Earlier immigrants earned 13 per cent more than the Canadian-born.

Transfers from government a slightly larger share of income except for seniors

To examine transfers from governments more closely, this section focuses on households. Households are classified according to the presence of immigrants and recent immigrants in the same way as in Part C. However, only immigrants who landed before 1995 are considered here. All households with immigrants who landed during 1995 and 1996 have been excluded. As transfers from government vary considerably with the age of the recipient, households are classified by age.

Defining "Age of household"
By age of household is meant the age of a principal person in the household. The age of family households is the age of the older of the spouses or the lone parent in the family. For non-family households, age refers to the age of the oldest person in the household.

Table E.4: Transfers from government to households, by age of household, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1995

	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 and over	All households (including ages 15-24)
Share of households receiving transfers				
Canadian-born households	86%	77%	100%	87%
Earlier immigrant households	83%	78%	100%	88%
Recent immigrant households	88%	84%	98%	88%
Average amount of transfer per receiving household				
Canadian-born households	$4,200	$5,000	$15,200	$7,400
Earlier immigrant households	$4,700	$4,900	$15,800	$10,000
Recent immigrant households	$4,600	$5,200	$10,800	$5,700
Transfers from government as a share of average household income				
Canadian-born households	8%	6%	37%	13%
Earlier immigrant households	7%	6%	37%	16%
Recent immigrant households	8%	7%	22%	10%

In 1995, the large majority of households received transfers from government. Almost all households with persons of 65 years of age and older received such transfers – Old Age Security and the Guaranteed Income Supplement, Canada and Quebec Pension Plan benefits. But approximately four out of five households without seniors received some income from a government program, whether from Unemployment Insurance, Workers Compensation, social assistance, student assistance, or other programs.

Recent immigrant households, except for households of seniors, were somewhat more likely to receive a transfer from government than other households. These households were probably more in need of assistance from government during the early years after arriving in Canada, when many

recent immigrants were not yet fully participating in the economy. As well, recent immigrant households are relatively large, and thus are likely to receive higher amounts of transfers either because more members are entitled to benefits like employment insurance payments or because of greater need. On the other hand, recent immigrant households would not have had time to build up significant entitlements under the Canada and Quebec Pension Plans.

The average payment received varies considerably by age of household. Households of Canadian-born seniors and of seniors who immigrated before 1981 received an average payment in the order of $15,500. Households of recently immigrated seniors on average received substantially less than households of Canadian-born seniors.

Other households received from $4,200 to $5,200. Households of recent immigrants in the 25-64 age group had a higher probability of receiving government transfers, and also received a higher average amount than households of the Canadian-born.

Government transfers make up a much smaller share of income of the households of recently immigrated seniors (22%) than of Canadian-born seniors (37%), while for households in the lower age ranges the shares are similar (6% to 8%).

The distribution of income

High share of personal incomes in middle range after prolonged stay

Table E.5: Distribution of personal income, persons 15 years and over, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1995 (percentage distribution)

	Without income	$1 to $10,000	$10,000 to $30,000	$30,000 to $50,000	over $50,000	Average income
Women						
Canadian-born	5%	25%	43%	20%	7%	$21,200
Immigrated before 1981	3%	21%	50%	19%	8%	$22,500
Immigrated 1981-1994	11%	31%	43%	11%	4%	$16,000
Men						
Canadian-born	3%	19%	31%	27%	19%	$31,700
Immigrated before 1981	0%	11%	39%	28%	22%	$36,300
Immigrated 1981-1994	6%	24%	36%	20%	13%	$25,200

Of recent immigrants, 42 per cent of women and 30 per cent of men reported no income or income of less than $10,000 in 1995. The shares reporting no income or income below $10,000 are lower for persons who immigrated before 1981. At the high end of the income scale recent immigrants are underrepresented.

If the circumstances of earlier immigrants can be taken as an indication of what recent immigrants can be expected to achieve with time, then a general, widespread upward shift can be expected in incomes of persons who immigrated during the 1980s and 1990s in years to come.

A larger share of the incomes of men who immigrated before 1981 are above $30,000 than those of the Canadian-born, while for women the shares are the same. Among the earlier immigrants many men and women have incomes in the lower middle range of $10,000 to $30,000. In part this reflects the fact that many earlier immigrants are seniors receiving old age benefits.

Table E.6: Distribution of household income, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1995 (percentage distribution)

Households	$0 to $20,000	$20,000 to $40,000	$40,000 to $60,000	$60,000 to $80,000	Over $80,000	Average income
Canadian-born	22%	26%	22%	15%	15%	$48,600
Earlier immigrants	19%	25%	20%	15%	20%	$55,100
Recent immigrants	19%	25%	23%	15%	16%	$51,200
1980s immigrants	*19%*	*23%*	*24%*	*14%*	*19%*	*$52,200*
1991-94 immigrants with others	*12%*	*26%*	*26%*	*22%*	*14%*	*$55,900*
1991-94 immigrants only	*28%*	*36%*	*16%*	*12%*	*8%*	*$40,100*

In 1995, recent immigrant households had average income of $51,200 or 5 per cent above the income of Canadian-born, and 7 per cent below the income of earlier immigrant households. The income of households consisting only of very recent immigrants is more than three-quarters of the income of households of the Canadian-born.

The income distributions of households of recent immigrants, earlier immigrants and the Canadian-born are remarkably similar. Less than one-half of recent immigrant households (44%) have incomes of less than $40,000, which is similar to other households (48% of Canadian-born and 44% of earlier immigrant households). The income of one-fifth (19%) of recent immigrant households is less than $20,000, compared to 22 per cent for Canadian-born households and 19 per cent for earlier immigrant households.

One in four recent immigrants lives in a family with low income

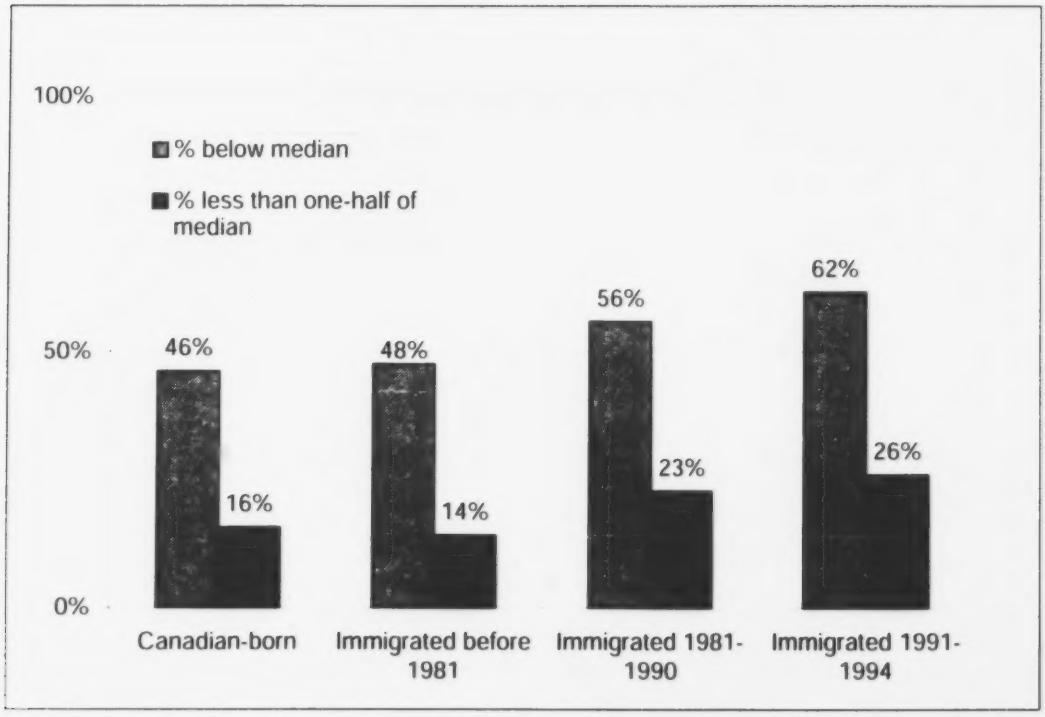
One way of examining income inequality is to see whether persons in certain groups are more likely than persons in other groups to have incomes that fall below the overall median income. The median income is the middle income when incomes are ordered by size, from high to low. One-half of incomes are higher, one-half are lower. And to measure more severe inequality, the percentage of incomes falling below one-half of the median income is examined.

Figure E.1 and Table E.7 show the percentage of people with income below the median. For people living in families, the family income was compared to the median family income. For non-family persons - much smaller in number, particularly among recent immigrants - their individual income was compared to the median income of all non-family persons. Unattached individuals under 15 years of age are not included as no income data is available. The proportion of persons with income below one-half of the median, shown in Figure E.1 and Table E.8, was derived in the same way.

In Victoria in 1995, the median income of all families (defined as two or more persons related by blood, marriage, common-law status or adoption, and living together in the same household) was $53,548. For individuals not living in families, median income was $19,325.

As family size has not been considered in these calculations, and as larger families are likely to have higher income (but not necessarily higher income per member of the family), the number of persons in the total population living in families with income below the median is less than 50 per cent. 49 per cent of women and 45 per cent of men live in families with income below the median. 16 per cent of women and 15 per cent of men live in families with income below one half of the median.

Figure E.1: Persons in families and unattached individuals with income below the median and below one-half of the median, as a percentage of the population, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1995



Recent immigrants are more likely than earlier immigrants and the Canadian-born to live in families with incomes that fall below the overall median, or if they do not live in families, to have income below the median for unattached individuals. They are also more likely to live in families with incomes that fall below one-half of the median income. The percentage of immigrants in families with incomes in the lower part of the income distribution declines in relation to their length of stay in Canada.

Table E.7: Persons in families and unattached individuals with income below the median, as a percentage of all persons, by age and gender, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1995

	Under 15	15 to 24	25 to 64	65 and over	All persons
Women					
Canadian-born	52%	55%	42%	57%	48%
Immigrated before 1981	n.a.	47%	41%	62%	50%
Immigrated 1981-1994	57%	61%	58%	52%	58%
Men					
Canadian-born	50%	46%	39%	55%	44%
Immigrated before 1981	n.a.	48%	36%	62%	45%
Immigrated 1981-1994	70%	61%	55%	59%	59%

The proportion of people with incomes below the median varies with age. For the Canadian-born and earlier immigrants, the highest proportions are found among seniors. But this is not so for recent immigrants, where incomes below the median are as common or more common at younger ages.

In almost all age groups, the proportion of persons with income below the overall median is higher among recent immigrants than among the Canadian-born. However, the differences are much greater for people of working age than for seniors. In fact, for those aged 65 years and over, the proportion with income below the overall median is slightly lower for recent immigrant women and slightly higher for recent immigrant men compared to the Canadian-born. In both cases the difference is about four percentage points. This probably reflects programs of income support for seniors as well as extended-family arrangements that are relatively common for recently immigrated seniors.

Table E.8: **Persons in families and unattached individuals with income below one-half of the median, as a percentage of all persons, by age and gender, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1995**

	Under 15	15 to 24	25 to 64	65 and over	All persons
Women					
Canadian-born	19%	25%	15%	11%	16%
Immigrated before 1981	n.a.	22%	14%	12%	14%
Immigrated 1981-1994	28%	27%	23%	21%	24%
Men					
Canadian-born	18%	19%	13%	13%	15%
Immigrated before 1981	n.a.	25%	11%	21%	15%
Immigrated 1981-1994	37%	28%	20%	24%	24%

One in four recent immigrants (24% of both women and men) is living in a low income situation. This is a higher share than among the Canadian-born, something that is found in all age groups, indicating a higher incidence of low income among recent immigrants of all ages.

PART F: HOUSING

Crowded accommodation more common for recent immigrants

In Tables F.1 and F.2, a room is defined as an enclosed area within a dwelling that is suitable for year-round living: a living room, bedroom, kitchen, or a finished room in attic or basement. Not counted as rooms are bathrooms, halls, vestibules and spaces used solely for business purposes. Accommodation is defined as "crowded" when there are more persons in the household than rooms in the dwelling, i.e. when there is more than one person per room.

Table F.1: Number of persons per room, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996 (percentage distribution)

Households	Fewer than 0.5 persons	0.5 to 0.74 persons	0.75 to 0.99 persons	1 or more persons	Number of households
Canadian-born	64%	28%	3%	4%	89,300
Earlier immigrants	69%	25%	3%	3%	32,000
Recent immigrants	40%	35%	10%	15%	7,800
1980s immigrants	44%	37%	9%	10%	4,660
1990s immigrants with others	34%	34%	15%	17%	1,870
1990s immigrants only	31%	31%	9%	29%	1,240

Households of recent immigrants have space per person that is below the average in the Victoria area. More than one out of seven recent immigrant households (15%) live in crowded conditions (i.e. there are fewer rooms than people in the home). The incidence of crowding is particularly high among households consisting only of very recent immigrants (29%). By contrast, crowding is very rare among households of the Canadian-born (4%) and earlier immigrants (3%).

Table F.2: Persons per room and size of household, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996 (percentage distribution)

Household size	Type of household	Fewer than 0.5 persons	0.5 to 0.74 persons	0.75 to 0.99 persons	1 or more persons	Number of households
1 to 3 persons	Canadian-born	72%	23%	2%	4%	73,730
	Earlier immigrants	77%	18%	1%	3%	25,990
	Recent immigrants	55%	28%	6%	10%	4,780
4 or 5 persons	Canadian-born	30%	54%	11%	5%	14,400
	Earlier immigrants	36%	52%	8%	4%	5,260
	Recent immigrants	17%	50%	15%	18%	2,470
6 or more persons	Canadian-born	11%	48%	26%	15%	1,140
	Earlier immigrants	8%	56%	28%	7%	760
	Recent immigrants	2%	30%	28%	45%	510

Crowding is related to size of household. The larger the household, the greater the chance that there are more persons than rooms in the dwelling. This pattern is found among households of the Canadian-born as well as immigrants. But there is much less crowding in households of the Canadian-born than in households of recent immigrants, whatever their size.

As shown earlier, households of immigrants who arrived before the 1980s are similar to the households of the Canadian-born in size (see Table C.8). They also have accommodation that is similar in size to that of the Canadian-born. This suggests that immigrants form large households and live in relatively crowded conditions for a period after their arrival, so as to keep the cost of accommodation down. But when economic circumstances permit, they split into smaller household units or move to more spacious accommodation. Households also become smaller when children of immigrants become adults and establish their own households.

Share of households with high housing cost in relation to income somewhat higher

Table F.3: Cost of accommodation as a share of household income, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1995 (percentage distribution)

Households	Less than 30%	30% to 50%	50% or more
Canadian-born	69%	18%	13%
Earlier immigrants	77%	14%	10%
Recent immigrants	64%	20%	16%
1980s immigrants	65%	19%	15%
1991-94 immigrants with others	64%	21%	15%
1991-94 immigrants only	57%	23%	21%
All households	71%	17%	13%

Over two-fifths of households (44%) made up exclusively of immigrants who have been in Canada for five years or less spend more than 30 per cent of their income on accommodation. For one-fifth of these households (21%) the cost of accommodation even exceeds 50 per cent of income. Of Canadian-born households, three in ten (31%) have housing cost in excess of 30 per cent of income. For other recent immigrant households the share with housing cost in excess of 30 per cent is about 35 per cent, somewhat higher than the share of Canadian-born households.

Table F.4: Period of construction, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996 (percentage distribution)

Households	Before 1961	1961-1980	After 1980
Canadian-born	33%	40%	27%
Earlier immigrants	32%	40%	28%
Recent immigrants	30%	38%	32%
1980s immigrants	*29%*	*38%*	*33%*
1990s immigrants with others	*35%*	*37%*	*28%*
1990s immigrants only	*25%*	*43%*	*32%*
All households	32%	40%	27%

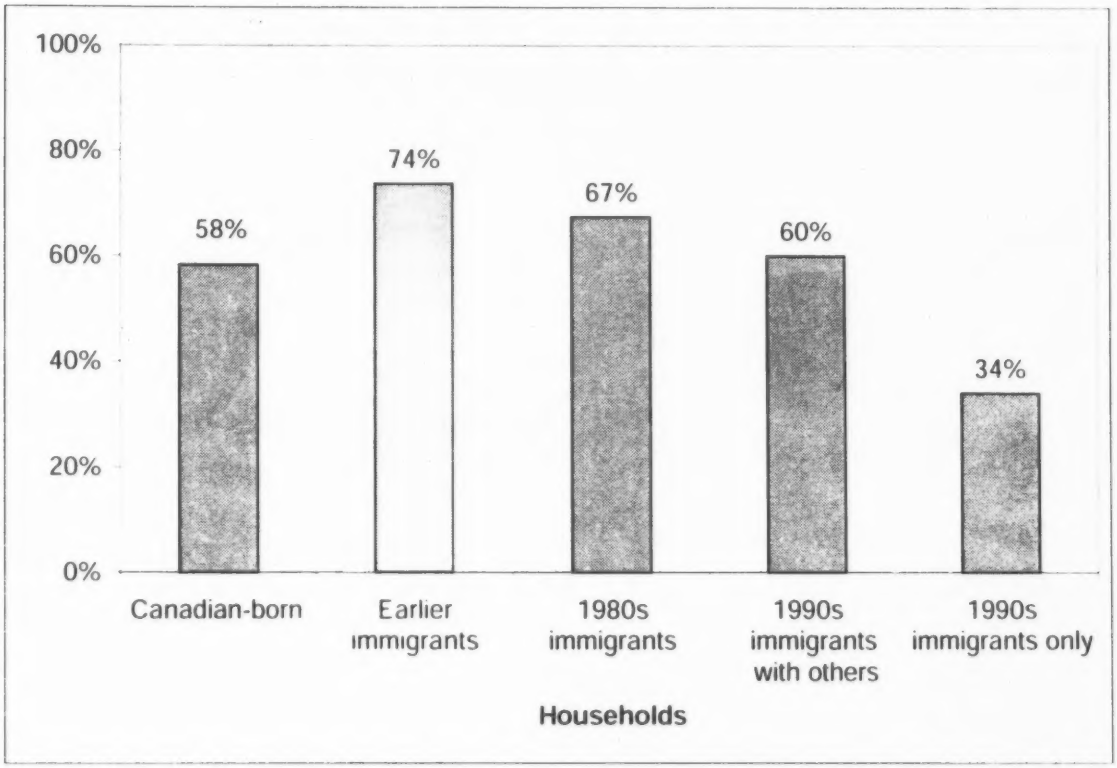
The dwellings where households of immigrants who arrived after 1980 live have been more recently built than the houses of the Canadian-born, and the proportion in need of major repair is relatively low.

Table F.5: Quality of housing, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996 (percentage distribution)

Households	Regular maintenance	Minor repairs	Major repairs
Canadian-born	72%	22%	6%
Earlier immigrants	76%	19%	5%
Recent immigrants	73%	22%	5%
1980s immigrants	*72%*	*22%*	*5%*
1990s immigrants with others	*69%*	*25%*	*6%*
1990s immigrants only	*79%*	*17%*	*4%*
All households	73%	21%	6%

Home ownership common except for households consisting exclusively of very recent immigrants

Figure F.1: Households owning their home as a percentage of all households, Victoria Metropolitan Area, 1996



Only one third (34%) of households consisting exclusively of immigrants who arrived during 1991-1996 own their home, compared to almost three in five (58%) households of the Canadian-born and three-quarters (74%) of earlier immigrants. The rate of home ownership among joint households of very recent immigrants and others is 60 per cent, while that of households of immigrants who landed during the 1980s is 67 per cent. Both these rates are higher than the rate among the Canadian-born.

Home-ownership is much higher among earlier immigrants than the Canadian-born. This probably reflects the higher average age of earlier immigrants, but it may also point to different choices. It also suggests that the high frequency of rental tenure among households consisting only of recent immigrants is a temporary phenomenon that is a part of the adjustment process.